

Bhutto, Sharif file papers for top job

ISLAMABAD (R) — Arch-rivals Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif filed nomination papers Monday for the prime minister's job, to be settled in a parliamentary vote on Tuesday. Six nominations each were filed for both the former prime minister, National Assembly (lower house) sources said. The National Assembly elected Mr. Bhutto's nominees for speaker and deputy speaker on Sunday, virtually ensuring her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will take power despite a hung parliament. But Mr. Sharif refused to leave the field open for an easy win for Ms. Bhutto. "We will take part in the Oct. 19 election with more spirit and vigour," Mr. Sharif told reporters on Sunday, after the candidates of his Pakistan Muslim League party for the speaker and deputy speaker lost the vote. The candidate getting the majority of votes in Tuesday's polling will be invited to form the next government. The PPP emerged as the largest party in the hung National Assembly elected last week. It has been locked in a tug-of-war with Mr. Sharif for control of the hung parliaments in Islamabad and in the richest and most populous province, Punjab.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Iran beats Japan 2-1

DOHA (AP) — Japan's reputation as an emerging Asian soccer power suffered a setback Monday after they lost to Iran 2-1 in a nail-biting finish of the World Cup final Asian qualification match. With two minutes to go Japan recovered from a 2-0 deficit to make it 2-1 and came close to equalising. In the day's first match, Saudi Arabia, denied by the injury of a key striker and the suspension of another, beat a resurgent North Korea 2-1 (see page 9). "There is no excuse, Iran played better soccer and made use of their chances, we could not," said Japanese coach Marius Oco. "Japan is not out of the tournament, but to be in we must win all the remaining matches." Oco, a Dutchman, told a post-match news conference. Iranian coach Farouk Ali attributed his victory to teamwork and research. "We have been studying the Japanese and we knew how to check them," Ali told reporters. The Iran-Japan match brought back some memories of their ugly encounter last year that ended with the suspension of four Iranians for beating up the referee.

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King confers medal on Syrian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred on Syrian Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order upon the end of his tour of duty here. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan presented the medal to the outgoing envoy at a lunch hosted in his honour.

Qatar leader due here today

AMMAN (Petra) — Sheikh Mohammad Bin Hamad Al Thani, brother of the emir of Qatar, is due in Amman Wednesday in a three-day official visit to the country. Sheikh Mohammad is expected to meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials to discuss ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Mitterrand in Yemen

SANA (AFP) — President Francois Mitterrand arrived here Monday on the first visit by a French head of state to Yemen. Mr. Mitterrand, who flew in for the 24-hour visit from Mauritius where he attended a conference of French-speaking nations, was welcomed by Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mr. Mitterrand, accompanied by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, was due to hold talks with Mr. Saleh.

Libya protests contacts with Israel

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya formally protested to three Gulf countries Monday, following reports of secret contacts between Israeli and Gulf officials. The Libyan news agency JANA said Libyan Unity Minister Jomaa Al Fazzani protested to the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates over the contacts, which were reported by the Western media. "The contacts... are a violation of Arab conventions and resolutions, and an insult to the martyrs who have fallen for Palestine and the Arab Nation," the minister said. Mr. Fazzani warned the ambassadors of the "dangers of such behaviour and its detrimental consequences for the higher interests of the Arab Nation."

Denny attackers 'guilty'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Two black men accused of beating white trucker Reginald Denny in the early hours of the Los Angeles riots were cleared Monday of the most serious charges but found guilty on lesser counts. The jury failed to reach verdicts on some charges against Damian Williams, 20, and Henry Watson, 29. They were ordered to continue deliberating.

Iranian blast suspect held in Canada

TORONTO (AFP) — An Iranian, suspected of having links to last year's bombing of New York's World Trade Centre, is being held in protective custody in Toronto, a newspaper reported Monday. But, the Toronto Sun said, no charges have yet been laid against Mansour Ahani, 29, who has been detained in Toronto's Don Jail for four months. Mr. Ahani's lawyer, Larry Konrad, said no court date had yet been set for his client. He refused to comment further. The Iranian is seeking refugee status in Canada.

Rafsanjani in Tashkent

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Uzbekistan Monday on the first stop of a tour of Central Asia and Caucasus, aimed at bolstering economic ties with the resource-rich former Soviet republics. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Mr. Rafsanjani was given a red carpet welcome in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, by President Islam Karimov.

No decision yet on Mideast talks - Ross

U.S. troubleshooter flies to Tunis after Cairo meetings, due here today

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — The U.S. coordinator for Middle East peace talks, trying to broker a breakthrough between Syria and Israel, said Monday that Washington had not yet decided when to hold the next round of Arab-Israeli talks.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday the United States had announced the next round of talks had been postponed.

Asked in Cairo about Israel's announcement that the talks had apparently been put back until the end of November, coordinator Dennis Ross told reporters at the start of a regional tour:

"We haven't made any such decision. No, no, one of the purposes of the trip is to assess when the next round might take place. We only just got out here."

Later, after meeting President Hosni Mubarak, he said: "One of the things we are out here doing is talking to everyone and we are going to try and make a judgement when... to have the next round."

"We just began our tour and obviously there will be lots of discussions in the next few days."

The Washington talks had been expected to resume at the end of the month; the first since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a peace deal on Palestinian self-rule last month. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will weigh the recommendations of the Ross team before deciding whether to go to the Middle East to try to break the deadlock in Israeli-Syrian negotiations, U.S. officials said.

Syrian papers reject Rabin call for talks

DAMASCUS (AP) — Government newspapers on Monday rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for changing the present formula for the Middle East peace talks to break the logjam between the Jewish state and Syria.

They said Mr. Rabin was trying to further complicate the mission of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who is touring the region in an effort to push forward the Syria-Israeli peace talks.

Damascus Radio, meanwhile, rejected Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' remark Monday that the Golan Heights would not be returned to Syria as a gift.

Syria has said the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights is a pre-condition to any peace agreement.

The radio objected to Mr. Peres' remark by saying the demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is dictated by United Nations resolutions and "can't be described as a gift presented to one party by another."

"Under U.N. resolutions Israel should withdraw from the territories which it occupied by force and through aggression," said the radio. "The return of the land to its owners can't be regarded as a gift."

The radio said no one was asking Israel to do more than commit itself to the legitimacy of the United Nations and to give up "the law of the jungle."

The newspaper Al Baath, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, said Mr. Rabin's call Sunday for direct talks with Damascus "constitute the first obstacle before the American coordinator... and it is one of many obstacles that Israel places in the peace process."

Added Al Baath: "There is

the alternative is to reopen formal talks in Washington, but Syria has warned the Clinton administration that before accepting it wants strong indications Israel is ready to relinquish the Golan Heights.

The Clinton administration is eager to build on Israel's agreements with the PLO and the accord on an agenda, for negotiations with Jordan, but the outlook for an accord between Israel and Syria is not promising.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told Egyptian newspaper's editors at the end of a weekend visit to Cairo that Syria will not give up one inch of the Golan Heights.

"Every inch of the golan has the same value as the entire Syrian soil. We will never give up one single grain of Syrian soil," Al Gomhuriya newspaper quoted Mr. Sharaa as saying.

Mr. Sharaa accused the PLO of cheating the Arab parties by striking a unilateral peace agreement with Israel without consulting them.

"We have agreed to coordinate from the beginning, before Madrid and after Madrid. We have blocked every opportunity to advance on the Syrian track because of the restraints that we have placed on the Israeli negotiator for the sake of Palestinian rights."

"But it is not the right of any of the partners to cheat the others and move unilaterally throwing aside the rules of coordination, united efforts and destiny," he said.

Mr. Sharaa said Saturday his country would boycott the talks unless Israel showed willingness to make progress.

"We will not go to Washington to participate in sterile and

non-profitable talks. We will only go when the Israelis show they are serious in achieving results," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday said progress with Syria could only be made in direct meetings.

The Syrian newspaper Al Baath, which frequently speaks for the government, said in an editorial that Mr. Rabin's proposal for direct talks would be the first problem Mr. Ross would have to work out (see story below).

Israel's Maariv newspaper said Mr. Ross, then Mr. Christopher would shuttle between Israel and Syria.

A similar shuttle by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1974 produced Israel's surrender of an additional slice of the Golan Heights it had seized in the 1973 Middle East war as well as the town of Quneitra, seized in 1967.

Mr. Ross flew to Tunis later Monday.

Mr. Ross said he had discussed with Mr. Mubarak ways to implement the Israel-PLO peace accord. The U.S. envoy also met Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

An informed Palestinian source in Tunis said Mr. Ross would meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday.

From Tunis Mr. Ross is to head for Jordan, Israel and Syria.

The Israeli daily Haaretz said Syria planned to give Mr. Ross its definition of peace with Israel, fulfilling an Israeli demand to get talks moving.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in remarks broadcast Monday, said Syrian flexibility was needed before going ahead.

Iraq, Iran begin talks on relations

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Talks aimed at improving relations between Iraq and Iran began in the foreign ministry here Monday, officials said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who arrived here Sunday, started talks with a top Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal, the officials said.

It is the first visit to Iraq by a high ranking Iranian official since the 1991 Gulf war.

The official Al Thawra newspaper reported Monday Mr. Zarif was due to stay here for four days, in a visit the Iraqi News Agency said was aimed at preparing a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Mr. Zarif said on arrival Sunday that Tehran seeks the "full implementation" of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 that ended eight years of war with Iraq in 1988.

The resolution provides among other things for the release and the repatriation of prisoners of war (PoWs).

PoWs "will be the most important issue on the agenda," Mr. Zarif added.

Iraq says that it has released all Iranian PoWs but that 20,000 Iraqi soldiers are still held in Iran. Tehran says that 5,000 Iranian PoWs are still imprisoned in Iraq.

Mr. Zarif also said the meeting would also focus on disputed frontier areas, a thorny issue between the two that served as a catalyst for the bloody 1980-1988 war.

"I come here to discuss with my Iraqi colleagues relations between the two countries and the remaining problems that we have with Iraq, particularly the issue of prisoners of war," Mr. Zarif told reporters on arrival.



KING MEETS SHAATH: His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Nabil Shaath, who arrived here after attending the first round of negotiations with Israel on implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy accord (Petra photo)

who arrived here after attending the first round of negotiations with Israel on implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy accord (Petra photo)

Crown Prince underlines need for Arabs to absorb technology

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Arab World as a whole should absorb modern technology if they aim at building an effective economic structure capable of competing on the international level, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday.

"We need to achieve qualitative education and rationalise the use of our material and manpower resources if we wish to achieve progress," he said.

Referring to earlier Arab advances in administration systems, Prince Hassan said: "Our ancestors also had to build up a modern military power which helped them to accomplish many achievements in war and peace and in land and at sea."

The lecture was delivered on behalf of the Crown Prince by

Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Secretary General Ali Um Lail.

Calling on the Arabs to absorb and learn developed and modern technology to serve as a tool for progress, the Crown Prince also emphasised that "the Arab World is in need of democratic systems to deal with pluralistic societies and to ensure protection for human dignity, freedom and other rights."

Referring to earlier Arab advances in administration systems, Prince Hassan said: "Our ancestors also had to build up a modern military power which helped them to accomplish many achievements in war and peace and in land and at sea."

Clinton orders new Haiti sanctions

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton imposed new sanctions Monday on military and police leaders opposed to the return of democracy to Haiti, freezing their assets and forbidding them from travelling to the United States.

The action is part of Mr. Clinton's plan against those who helped overthrow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991 and refuse to abide by an agreement to reinstate the exiled leader on Oct. 30.

An oil embargo that was lifted in July amid signs of progress was restored last week by Mr. Clinton. Monday's sanctions mirror other restrictions lifted in July.

The military and police authorities must understand they have no future," in continuing

to block efforts to restore democracy, said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers.

"We must protect American lives, we must prevent a mass exodus of Haitians," she said, reading from a statement. "We want to help restore democracy in Haiti and thereby promote democracy throughout the hemisphere."

Ms. Myers said Mr. Clinton was to sign an executive order imposing the sanctions at midnight unless Mr. Aristide is allowed back in power.

Earlier, the White House said President Clinton was concerned that a proposal to require congressional authorisation before sending U.S. troops to Haiti could restrict his authority as commander in chief, the White House said Monday.

At the State Department, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: "Any provision which preconditions the ability of the president to use the armed forces is offensive to the (U.S.) constitution."

If adopted, Senator Robert Dole's amendment would be a "very serious setback for the United States," Mr. Christopher said. He spoke during a photo session with Finnish Foreign Minister Jukka Valtasaari.

But Ms. Myers said the president has not taken a position on Mr. Dole's plan to introduce a bill that would restrict the president's ability to deploy forces to the Caribbean country.

"We'll see. It's not in final form yet," she said.

Haitians observed an official

Gazan shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian while disbanding stonethrowers in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army said Monday.

Anwar Nasser, 23, from the Rafah refugee camp, was shot and killed Sunday, the army and Palestinian sources said.

Nasser was the 1157th Palestinian to be killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians since the start of the uprising against Israel in 1987, according to an Associated Press count.

Nasser was the fourth Palestinian to be killed by troops this month. In the same period last year, 11 Palestinians were killed.

Also Monday, Palestinians hurled a hand grenade at a military patrol in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, the army said.

In Amman, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said it would still execute Palestinian collaborators in the Gaza Strip despite a warning from Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction.

"Extremisation of collaborators with Israel is a crucial part of the Intifada (uprising)," said Mohammad Nazzari, the Hamas representative in Amman.

He told A-P that the "collaborators" were recruiting dozens of Palestinians as "agents of the Israeli security apparatus."

"Even if Fatah, which until recently joined us in getting the agents, has committed itself to halting the uprising, we are still committed to its continuation," he said.

Dear Mam...
Can you foresee the future



Green Berets work to heal Somali bodies and win minds

By Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — The Green Berets loaded their M-16 rifles and snapped on their flak jackets as they drove out of the U.S. military compound on a mission to heal bodies and win Somali hearts.

"Americo Americo" kids yelled as they waved thumbs-up signs along the route, past bombed-out villas and two checkpoints manned by Pakistani tanks.

The soldiers scanned the crowd along a sidewalk lined with stalls, but the only sign of hostility came from a veiled woman who gestured obscenely.

The convoy of eight humvees and a truck pulled into a street in Medina, a haven of security in the southern Mogadishu stronghold of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

Troops unloaded boxes of medicine, tables, chairs and medical instruments and arranged them in an empty clinic once run by the U.N. Children's Fund. That was before Gen. Aided's guerrillas began targeting foreigners and most humanitarian agencies abandoned the city.

Within 20 minutes, nearly 100 people had gathered outside, mainly women and children.

Omar Abdullah Omar was first, a man carrying the 12-year-old boy arranged his withered legs under a tree.

"There isn't anything we can do for him, medically," said Shawn Alderman, a doctor. "When the civil war broke out between the clans, Omar was one of hundreds of thousands of innocent victims."

He was caught in cross-fire by a bullet that tore into his left side and severed his spine.

cord.

Dr. Alderman produced a wheelchair, begged from the 46th U.S. Combat Support Hospital. He gently gathered up the paraplegic and, before putting him into it, showed him a sign in Somali written on the back.

It said, "Omar, the kid." The young boy, who'd looked listless all along, appeared dazed. "America — good," said his mother, Nura Ahmad Jimale.

Then she broke into Somali, having exhausted her English. An interpreter explained: "She says Omar will have a new life now. For the past year, he has lain on the floor of their home, incontinent, moved only when they have to clean up his mess."

It was the second time the Green Berets, officially called the Special Forces, had opened the clinic since Oct. 3, when Aided's guerrillas shot down two helicopters on a raiding mission to arrest the clan leader's aides.

Some 400 American, Pakistani and Malaysian soldiers fought about 1,000 Aided backers in the ensuing nine-hour battle. More than 300 Somalis, one Malaysian and 18 Americans were killed.

Last week, the berets scouted Medina, testing the mood with religious leaders and other elders. They decided the area was not hostile and was secured by anti-Aided militiamen.

Major Bill Robinson, who was in charge of the exercise, said the work paid off better than the military approach that led to the Oct. 3 debacle and prompted U.S. President Bill Clinton to opt for diplomacy in Somalia.

"The focus on (winning) hearts and minds should have been the focus all along,"

said Maj. Robinson. "You are basically driving a spear into your heart with what we were doing before. And if you keep running into resistance and you keep going (with force), you just keep driving that spear deeper."

Maj. Robinson brought 20 Green Berets to the clinic, but not enough doctors. So he called the Swedish army hospital. "They wanted to go out, but didn't feel safe, so when we said we'd provide the security, they were delighted to come."

A week before, when the Americans first opened the clinic, they could not persuade any U.N. military doctors to join them.

It was another sign of easing tensions since Gen. Aided declared a ceasefire a week ago. He then released two captured peacekeepers, U.S. helicopter pilot Michael Durant and Nigerian Umar Shantali.

At the clinic, doctors and medics treated everything from diarrhoea and tuberculosis.

Maj. Robinson hopes that as clan leaders see the benefits from such clinics and school-rebuilding projects, their rivals will come under pressure to cooperate with the American troops.

It is hard to feel you have an enemy in someone who is caring for you.

On Saturday, a 24-year-old sergeant from Davenport, Iowa, cleaned and dressed two pus-filled holes in the thigh and stomach of Deeko Abdul Mohammed, 16. She also was caught in the cross-fire.

"I don't know why I'm doing this," said the medic, Mark Rausenberger. "Eventually, that leg will have to be amputated. But maybe this will give her some hope."

Saudis angered by Thailand theft case

BANGKOK (R) — Saudi Arabia is still furious about family jewellery stolen from a Saudi prince and will not reopen its lucrative labour market to Thai workers until the case is resolved, Riyadh's envoy to Bangkok said.

Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja told the Nation newspaper his country is not satisfied with the final result of Thailand's investigation into the case.

"I am not making a threat, but we will not allow those who have in their possession Saudi precious stones to remain unpunished," he said in an interview published Monday.

Thai worker Kriangkrai Techanong, 43, was convicted of stealing 500 million baht (\$20 million) worth of jewellery from a Saudi Arabian palace in early 1990.

Police caught him and returned the jewellery but the Saudis said 75 per cent of what was returned was cheap fakes.

An Interior Ministry report released last week concluded a police general and several police officers and civilians were alone responsible for the embezzlement, despite widespread speculation that more police were involved.

The Interior Ministry has denied unconfirmed reports of the jewellery being worn by the wives of high-ranking police.

"Can the Thai government say where the rest of the jewellery is? Even people on the street know the answer. I want to let the Thai know that we are not fools," Mr. Khoja said.

"I want to say that those who are in possession of the jewellery are taking advantage of other Thais," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia offers aid for Palestinian self-rule

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia pledged 12.5 million ringgit (\$5 million) to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday to help rebuild parts of the occupied territories. Palestinians are to exercise self-rule over the areas targeted by the Malaysian offer once Israeli forces withdraw. Malaysia will also provide technical assistance to the council of the Palestine national authority which will administer the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said. Malaysia's technical assistance to the Palestinians, under its technical cooperation programme for developing countries, will cover human resources development and institutional training, he said. Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Al Farra said Malaysia was the first country to contribute directly to the council since Israel and the PLO signed a peace accord in Washington last month. "Malaysia is the first to provide direct, bilateral assistance to the council," Mr. Farra said. "Other countries have pledged funds, but on a multilateral basis through agencies like the World Bank." Predominantly-Muslim Malaysia, a staunch supporter of the PLO, which enjoys full diplomatic recognition here, was among the first countries to recognise the Palestine state in 1988, officials said. Malaysia does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Saudi-Yemen border talks to resume

DUBAI (R) — Saudi-Yemeni border talks will resume next Monday, a Saudi Arabian official source said. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) late on Sunday quoted the source as saying the sixth round of border talks with Yemen will be held in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. The talks were due to have been held on Oct. 9 but the Saudi side asked for postponement. In August oil industry sources said some international oil firms operating under licence from Sanaa near the Saudi-Yemeni border received letters saying they were trespassing on Saudi land.

Indonesian army denies contact with Israel

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian army denied Monday it had had contact with Israeli forces in recent years, after allegations the military had periodically cooperated with that of Israel, which Indonesia does not recognise. General Syarwan Hamid, spokesman for the military headquarters here, told AFP: "There has never been any contact between Ahri (armed forces of Indonesia) and Israel." He said Indonesia had not bought any aircraft from Israel nor engaged in anti-terrorist training. "No aircraft was bought from Israel," he said. "There was no joint action with Israel." Sources here have said that since the end of the 1970s the Indonesian army periodically cooperated with industrialists or the military from Israel. Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, does not recognise. The Muslim World responded coolly to the surprise visit to Jakarta by Israeli Yitzhak Rabin last Friday, and his reception by President Suharto in his capacity as leader of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Passenger plane engine explodes midair

TEL AVIV (AP) — An engine on a French-owned charter plane exploded during takeoff at Ben-Gurion international airport, causing a forced landing, a statement by airport authorities said. None of the 159 passengers and crew aboard the Air Liberty DM-89 headed for Paris was hurt, the statement said. The engine exploded 15 metres in the air, the sound rocking the air traffic control tower, controllers said. Flames licked out of the plane as the pilot continued towards the Mediterranean Sea to dump fuel, they said. He doubled back to land because of smoke in the cockpit. The explosion was caused by intense 37 C (99 F) degree heat, a full load and strong winds from the desert, air traffic controllers said. There would be no investigation. Flights were delayed for an hour while airport workers cleared debris from the main runway. Air Liberty runs regular flights between Israel and France.

Israeli woman on Interpol executive

TEL AVIV (AP) — Interpol, the international police agency, appointed a woman to its ruling body for the first time in its 70-year history, Israeli police said in a statement Sunday. District superintendent Ety Yavin of the Israeli national police is also the first Israeli to be elected by Interpol representatives to the 13-member executive committee, the statement said. "The time is right," Ms. Yavin told the Associated Press. "The recent peace moves made a difference." Israel was traditionally isolated in international forums until U.S.-backed peace talks started making progress last year. Since then, Israel has applied to serve on the U.N. Security Council, and the United Nations peacekeeping forces have asked Israelis to join their ranks. Ms. Yavin, 40, said she is sure she had Arab backing in the vote at Interpol's annual general assembly, held last week in Aruba. She beat two other candidates to an executive post reserved for Asia by 47 votes out of 94. Ms. Yavin is Israel's liaison with other police forces, and has represented Israel at Interpol since 1986. She is one of only two women representatives to the organisation. Interpol, an acronym for International Criminal Police Organisation, was founded in 1922 as a worldwide clearinghouse for police information. It has been most effective against counterfeiting, forgery, smuggling and drug dealing.

Rabbi misunderstands mother, circumcises baby

TEL AVIV (AP) — Wednesday, the rabbi circumcised the wrong baby, Israel's ministry of religions Sunday dismissed charges against a rabbi who circumcised a baby boy in the town of Beersheva without the mother's consent. The text of the ruling was published by the Itim news agency. Yitzhak Nagar, a ministry official, went knocking on doors in a Beersheva neighbourhood filled with new immigrants on Wednesday, Sept. 22, the ruling said, looking for newborn boys who had not yet been circumcised. Jewish law says that

males must be circumcised at the age of eight days to mark the Biblical covenant between God and Abraham, the patriarch of Israel. Mrs. Pundersky, a recent immigrant from Russia, did not speak much Hebrew, the ruling said, but she was friendly enough. She held up the baby for examination. Sure enough, Mr. Nagar noted, the boy was uncircumcised. Mr. Nagar returned with Rabbi Shlomo Maman. They asked Mrs. Pundersky to leave the room — they did not want to upset her — and Rabbi Maman circumcised the boy, unnamed in the ruling. When Rabbi Maman returned later the same day to check on the boy, he found out Mrs. Pundersky had filed a complaint of kidnapping against him with the police. Police did not lay charges, they accepted Rabbi Maman's story that he believed he had a licence to circumcise — but the religious ministry set up a commission of inquiry. On Sunday, the commission chairman, ministry director Ze'ev Ropsenberg, said the commission also believed the baby was circumcised in good faith. However, he told Mr. Nagar and Rabbi Maman they were negligent in thoroughly checking the circumstances. For instance, he said, the infant lacked one crucial precondition for a proper religious circumcision: He wasn't Jewish.

Iran criticised for blackout over contact with Egypt

TEHRAN (AFP) — A radical daily on Sunday criticised the government for keeping silent about a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt in the sidelines of U.N. General Assembly last month. "With our silence we provide opportunity for Egyptian sources and their backers to spread rumours," said Kayhan, the largest-circulation daily in Iran. "Why do we allow the notorious government in Egypt to take advantage of such rumours to defile us?" The paper warned against any contacts with the "sell-out regime" in Cairo, but called for greater openness "should the government see them necessary for diplomatic considerations." The London-based Saudi daily, Al Sharq Al Awsat, reported earlier this week on a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa in New York last month. Relations between Tehran and Cairo, already strained since the 1979 Islamic revolution, have deteriorated in recent months, after Egypt accused Tehran of aiding fundamentalists bantling the secular government in that country.

Israeli family reunited after 75 years

TEL AVIV (AFP) — When Sonia Mindel arrived in Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport on Saturday, she did not recognise her little brother and sister who came to meet her — because the last time they saw each other was in 1918. Exactly 75 years ago, Sonia, now 90, moved out of the family home in what was then White Russia to stay with relatives in Russia, according to a story in Sunday's Yediot Aharnot newspaper. Soon afterwards her brother, Ze'ev, now 86, and sister Rachel, 78, moved to the Holy Land, against their father's wishes. Family members who stayed behind in what is now Belarus were all slaughtered after the Nazi invasion of 1941, but Sonia remained in Russia, unable in future years to get an exit visa from the Soviet Union. On Saturday, she finally flew in to see her siblings. The three had to be reunited by customs officials as they did not recognise each other. "All these years we have dreamed of seeing each other again before death took us away," Rachel Mindel told journalists at the airport.

SLA bans motorcycles in 'security zone'

MARJAYOUN (AP) — The Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Monday banned the use of motorcycles in the enclave the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon. A statement broadcast on the SLA-run Voice of the South radio station said the decision was due to "accumulating and dangerous accidents resulting from the use of motorcycles" inside Israel's self-styled "security zone." The statement said motorcycles would be confiscated in the future. The move came four days after a civilian on a motorcycle was fatally shot by Israeli troops as he tried to overtake an Israeli patrol in Aishiyeh, in the eastern sector of the zone. The Israelis apparently mistook the rider, Elias Kiserwani, for a guerrilla infiltrator. Security sources in South Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the SLA and the Israelis are worried about a possible rash of booby-trapped motorcycle attacks on Israeli and SLA positions inside the "security zone."

Sheikh Sabah to visit Japan this week

TOKYO (AFP) — Kuwait's former foreign minister is scheduled to arrive in Japan Thursday as an envoy to explain the emirate's stance on Iraq's breach of U.N. resolutions, the Foreign Ministry said. It said Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Sabah, who has also served as deputy prime minister, would meet Crown Prince Naruhito and pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa during his week-long visit. The visit "is based on a request of the government of Kuwait to explain its stance to Japan on the problems stemming from Iraq's breach of the U.N. resolutions, especially the problem of detainees," the ministry said.

Seventh journalist killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Unidentified attackers killed an Algerian state television journalist Monday, the seventh local journalist to be slain in five months of violence blamed on Muslim fundamentalists. Algiers Radio said Smail Yefah was murdered outside his home in the university suburb of Bab Al Zouar in Algiers. He was the second television journalist to be killed in five days. Former network head Mustapha Abada was gunned down last Thursday in Ain Taya, 20 kilometres east of the capital. The radio termed Yefah's killing "a new act of terrorism" — the usual Algerian term for violence blamed on armed fundamentalists seeking to set up a purist Islamic state. The official news agency APS, quoting security services, said Yefah was killed at 8:30 a.m. No other details were immediately available.

U.N. wants talks with Aided faction

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. officials struggling to restore order in the anarchy of Mogadishu said Monday they wanted to open talks with aides of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

Meanwhile speculation mounted that the United Nations would free at least some of 70 suspected Aided supporters detained in connection with the killings of more than 70 foreign troops here since May, civilian officials said.

Last week U.S. envoy Robert Oakley secured the release of a captured U.S. airman and a Nigerian soldier, and Washington is pushing the United Nations to release Somali prisoners, diplomats said.

Now that the U.S. has abandoned attempts to arrest Gen. Aided, an informal ceasefire has restored a fragile calm to this war-torn capital.

But in a sign that the truce is at best precarious, U.S. forces fired warning shots when 10 armed Somalis approached an American base in Gen. Aided's south Mogadishu stronghold Monday, military spokeswoman Dawn Kilpatrick said.

The Somalis fled and took refuge in a house. No casualties were reported, Ms. Kilpatrick said.

The Somalis were unidentified, and it was unknown whether they were Aided militiamen.

In a chilling reminder that clan warfare can resurface at any time in this chaotic and violent city, Ms. Kilpatrick said Somalis fired a mortar round early Monday in an area

Queen Elizabeth arrives in Cyprus amid controversy

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cypriot police were placed on extra alert after threats against British interests as the queen arrived Monday for a visit which has caused growing protests from Greek-Cypriot nationalists.

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, who were greeted by President Glafos Clerides, will stay on the royal yacht Britannia during the week-long visit.

Police said the already draconian security had been stepped up after two letters threatening action against "British targets" had been found amid burgeoning nationalist feeling in this former colony.

With more than 2,000 police deployed, security is already the tightest in the island's history for the queen's visit and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) due to start Thursday.

Police chiefs took Monday's threats sufficiently seriously to hold an emergency meeting which decided further to boost the security levels.

Greek Cypriot nationalists hold the queen, who was monarch at the time, to blame for the hanging of nine nationalist guerrillas by British forces during the struggle for independence in the 1950s.

A row over possible British contacts with Turkish authorities in northern Cyprus meanwhile was defused only hours before the Queen began her visit, the first by a British monarch.

British diplomats said on Monday afternoon that Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd

would not hold a separate meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

President Clerides had threatened to boycott a three-way working lunch with Mr. Hurd and Mr. Denktaş, planned for Wednesday, if Greek-Cypriot press reports of the planned meeting turned out to be true.

The self-declared Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus is not recognised by the international community, although Mr. Denktaş has been fighting for recognition for years.

Mr. Clerides warned that relations would be "substantially affected" if Britain made any moves towards giving the breakaway state equal status as his government.

The row was defused after British High Commissioner David Dain gave Cypriot Foreign Minister Aileen Michaelides a copy of Mr. Hurd's programme.

"There is no separate meeting with Denktaş," British high commission spokesman Richard Potter told AFP.

But tension remained amid a groundswell of nationalist feeling against Queen Elizabeth, who is to be handed the golden key to the city of Nicosia during a ceremony here on Tuesday.

The decision has prompted protests and hunger-strikes among the Greek Cypriot population.

The council in Limassol, the resort where the Commonwealth talks will take place, was to decide late Monday whether to grant her the same honour and a protest demonstration was planned outside the town hall.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30 Beunos Aires
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 People Next Door
21:10 Brand New Life
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Under Current"

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fajr
05:37 Sunrise (Souris) Dasha
11:21 Dhahur
14:33 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637448
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

It will be partly cloudy and dusty and there will be a chance of showers occasionally accompanied by thunder particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be southeasterly moderate occasionally becoming active. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and dusty with a chance of showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17/25

Aqaba 23/37

Deserts 17/30

Jordan Valley 22/37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37.4, Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

Khalilieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774102
Water Authority 680100

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Fajez Al Dabbas 799155

Dr. Mubillah Masrah 820425

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairook pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yasoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisari pharmacy 637660

Nairook pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 277757

Akuds pharmacy (-)

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Green Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Int. Al Nafes Hospital (02)47100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:30 Damascus (RJ)

07:30 Dhahran (RJ)

08:45 Amman (RJ)

09:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

11:00 Bangkok (RJ)

14:35 London (RJ)

16:35 Frankfurt (RJ)

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

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Princess Haya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Queen visits national products exhibit of Jordan Design and Trade Centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the exhibition of handicrafts at the Abu Jaber Touristic Estate next to Kan Zaman in Yadoudeb.

The exhibition, which is the first of NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC), includes special selections of woolen rugs, embroidered some furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items.

These have all been designed and produced by Jordanians, including individual craftspeople and 1,300 needy women who have been trained and supported by the JDTC, and who represent the project's 3,000 beneficiaries at this exhibition.

JDTC Director Fitra Kalaji said the aim of the exhibition, in addition to generating income from sales, is to introduce to the public the high level of handicrafts developed under the auspices of JDTC. JDTC extends assistance to existing and emerging Jordanian handicrafts groups in product development, technical and management training, and marketing.

All of this effort, she said, is designed to lead to sales which create sustainable jobs and help preserve the Kingdom's national heritage.

David O'Connor, the marketing adviser for the JDTC, said that since its establishment in 1990, much of JDTC's work was focused on developing export markets. By participating in international trade shows in the United States, France and Germany, the centre has reached a much wider market for Jordanian handicrafts which have asserted themselves strongly.

Mr. O'Connor added that



Her Majesty Queen Noor admires a ceramics display during her visit Monday to the Jordan

Design and Trade Centre Exhibition at the Abu Jaber Touristic Estate (Petra photo)

JDTC also sells locally to Jordanians and tourists, and because this market is expanding, JDTC is seeking to establish a retail outlet.

The exhibition is the first major step in promoting the JDTC's quality products to the local market. It will be open until Oct. 24.

The 250-year-old Abu Jaber Touristic Estate was chosen for this exhibition because its atmosphere creates a positive cultural and historical setting in which to display JDTC's products, and because one of JDTC's major objectives is to integrate handicrafts production with tourism.

As JDTC seeks to raise the standards of national handicrafts production, improve marketing opportunities for crafts, create new jobs and increase women's involvement in production and decision making, it extends its services to individual craftspeople,

non-profit and non-governmental institutions.

The total number of beneficiaries from the centre's training, technical and marketing services has reached 3,000 individuals and their families across Jordan.

Four towns in the south alone, in the Hawtat tribe region, have 600 women involved in a project of wool washing, spinning and weaving.

JDTC also prides itself in reviving two embroidery stitches that had completely died out: the Ma'ani stitch from the south and the "Jordanian" or "Jerash" stitch from the north.

JDTC has also locally developed new looms that are more efficient and less tiring, and has begun the first handloom production of textiles in Jordan.

JDTC operates with funding from the U.S. Agency for In-

ternational Development (USAID) and assistance from the Jordan Development Fund and the Jordan Trade Centres and Export Promotion Corporation, as well as small grants from the embassies of Canada, Australia, the U.K., China, and the Netherlands.

The JDTC is a major offshoot of the National Handicraft Development Project which was launched by Queen Noor in 1985 to revive traditional crafts and preserve Jordan's heritage by supporting craftspeople and crafts institutions to produce innovative, high quality, and attractively priced handicrafts.

The Queen was received upon arrival at the exhibition by Minister of Tourism, Mohammad Al Udwan, NHF President In'am Mufli, USAID Director in Amman, William Oliver, and senior government, NHF and USAID staff.

Kingdom awaits lawyers' approval of debt rescheduling documents

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has completed its part of the procedures related to the rescheduling of \$895 million in commercial debts and is awaiting the formalisation of documents by legal experts before the Kingdom's agreement with the London Club of commercial debtors is signed, senior official said Monday.

It was expected Finance Minister Sami Gammo and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nahuli were to travel to London in early October to sign the agreement with members of a steering committee of the London Club, but international lawyers are taking their own time in putting their stamp of approval on the document, said the official.

"It is not in our hands anymore," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "The lawyers are studying it, and as soon as we are notified that they are finished with it, we will set a date for a formal signing of the document."

"It is an awesome task," said the official. "There are thousands and thousands of papers related to every aspect of Jordan's accord with London Club reached earlier this year."

CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto travelled to London two months ago to help draw up the documents and complete the Jordanian side of the procedures after the Kingdom and the London Club reached an agreement in principle in July on rescheduling \$745 million in principal and \$150 million in interest owed to the group of some 80 plus commercial banks and financial institutions.

Once the agreement is signed, all banks will be bound by the terms and provisions contained therein, and there is no need for Jordan to enter separate bilateral accords with the banks.

Under the agreement, around two-thirds of the principal will be rescheduled for 30 years, and the rest would be bought back at a 35 per cent discount.

Outstanding interest will be partially paid and the rest will be rescheduled for 12 years.

The rescheduling arrangement will be guaranteed by 30-year and 12-year maturity, fixed amount U.S. treasury bonds purchased by Jordan.

Mr. Gammo, the finance minister, has said that the accord offers an indirect long-term debt reduction of up to 60 per cent of Jordan's commercial debts.

Jordan's foreign debts, including those owed to governments and state-owned agencies, total \$6.5 billion. The London Club accord will bring down this amount to around \$5.6 billion, of which around \$3 billion are owed to European and Japanese governments and around \$1 billion to the United States.

Jordan is seeking various forms of "debt relief," including "debt conversion" under which the creditors could turn their dues into investments in Jordan or into non-convertible bonds in Jordanian bonds.

The Kingdom is also hoping for a write-off of the military part of the total debts. No definite split-up is available, but \$380 million of the dues to the United States is military debt, which, under U.S. law, could be written off. Egypt and Poland have secured such relief from the U.S.

Hope that Washington would write off the \$380 million was raised when President Bill Clinton, after a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Oct. 1, said his administration would help Jordan and support the Kingdom's efforts to address its foreign debts, one of the highest per capita obligations in the Third World.

Diplomats noted that the administration had to secure congressional approval for a write-off, of the military debts.

"The next logical step is for the State Department to follow up on president Clinton's pledge and seek congressional approval for the write-off," said a western diplomat.

"Given the positive atmosphere and the increasing warmth in Jordanian-American relations, as well as the dramatic developments and progress in the peace process, it could be safely assumed that there will not be any congressional hurdles," added the diplomat.

Jordanian officials prefer not to discuss the issue. "We are hopeful of positive moves from Washington as well as other world capitals," said a senior official.

"It is not only debt write-off, but a host of other actions that could help Jordan through its economic difficulties," added the diplomat.

Overall, Jordan has managed to bring down foreign debts to 140 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) down from more than 200 per cent four years ago. The Kingdom is aiming to bring it down, in the short term, to 70 per cent or less so that it is free to turn its attention to domestic infrastructure and development.

Majali urges integrated, balanced expansion of Free Zones Corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday called on the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) to expand its activities in a balanced and integrated manner and be ready for the coming era.

Addressing a meeting at the FZC headquarters, attended by FZC Director Fahad Qudab, Dr. Majali said the corporation ought to benefit from available opportunities and employ every positive element to serve the national economy.

Stressing the importance of the FZC's work in encouraging investment, Dr. Majali said that bureaucracy and routine should be eliminated if the corporation is to enter the world of advanced development and progress.

The private sector, he added, should be given all incentives to enable it to play a key role in economic development.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Qudab reviewed the corporation's activities and its achievements.

The volume of work at the Aqaba and Zarqa free zones has considerably increased.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday visits the Free Trade Zones Corporation (FTZ)

where he is briefed on its activities by FTZ head Fahad Qudab (centre) (Petra photo)

and investment in industrial and commercial concerns have been on the rise, said Mr. Qudab.

To expand the free zones,

700 dunums have been developed for the necessary infrastructure to facilitate expansions, added Mr. Qudab.

The FZC chief outlined the

corporation's administrative reorganisation to cope with the expansions and new regulations which, he said, can help encourage more investments.

Crown Prince stresses need to exploit minerals to boost chemical industry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday the minerals and salts of the Dead Sea, as well as Jordanian phosphate, constitute a great wealth for the Kingdom and should form the basis of different chemical industries in the country.

These two products could be exploited to produce new materials and fertilisers in large quantities, thus placing Jordan in the forefront among chemical-exporting countries, said the Prince in an address delivered on his behalf by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour at the opening of a three-day

chemical engineering conference at the University of Jordan.

All efforts by various concerned authorities in Jordan to expand production of mineral resources and promote chemical industries are strongly encouraged, said Prince Hassan.

The Crown Prince said the country needs a strong, national scientific and technological base in order to develop its mining and mineral processing industries, as well as highly trained individuals and modern technology.

Urging scientific research centres to study how best to

promote mineral wealth exploration, Prince Hassan said that research activities should be closely linked to production, thus linking curricula to the actual needs of industry.

He urged re-examining the Kingdom's industrial production methods to avoid dependency on foreign expertise and technology.

To achieve such independence national scientific institutions must be bolstered, which in turn should spur feasibility studies for industrial projects and generally help promote Jordanian industry. Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) President Husni Abu Ghaib

addressed the meeting noting that 105 working papers including 26 from Jordan are being reviewed by delegates from 25 countries.

Jordanian papers will focus mainly on glass manufacturing, phosphate, potash and cement industries, petroleum refining and topics related to the environment.

The delegates include professors from Arab, European and American universities.

Following the opening session, Energy Minister Walid Asfour opened a three-day exhibition of engineering equipment.

SSC investments reach JD545m

AMMAN (Petra) — By the end of September total investments of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in various domains amounted to JD 545 million, contributing to economic development in Jordan and ensuring increased profits or beneficiaries, according to SSC Director Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani.

Addressing a press conference at his office marking the SSC's 15th anniversary, Mr. Hourani said the investment made from the accumulating premiums collected from 90,000 workers employed by 1,000 firms and organisations operating in the Kingdom.

It is hoped that more beneficiaries employed by the public

and private sectors will be covered by the SSC next year, he said.

Mr. Hourani demanded the elimination of bureaucratic measures and routine to help the corporation make investments.

The SSC board of directors would wait to avoid government routine in purchases of equipment, in financing construction projects and in any other form of investment in order to move directly towards the execution of projects without delay, said Mr. Hourani.

Referring to the SSC plans to include workers and their dependents in a comprehensive health insurance scheme, Mr. Hourani said that the Uni-

versity of Jordan is currently conducting studies on such a plan and the prospects of its implementation in stages.

But he noted that this project faces two snags: the cost, which exceeds what employers and workers could afford in a

lump sum; the availability of administrative and technical capabilities required to handle such huge efforts.

Should the health insurance plan be implemented, it would directly benefit at least one million persons.

Ministry plans nuclear energy institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources plans to set up a national and independent nuclear energy organisation and hopes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will extend assistance to the ministry in this endeavour, according to Abdul Wahab Zoubi, the ministry secretary general. Mr. Zoubi made the announcement at the opening session of a two-day workshop on the use of nuclear and related techniques in plant nutrient and water balance studies, organised by the ministry in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the IAEA.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ The Jordan International Exhibition displaying electric equipment and appliances, furniture, carpets, food items, chemicals, cosmetics, flowers, marble, and tiles at the Amman International Fair.
- ★ The 4th Amman International Computer Exhibition at the Amman International Car Show.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by late cartoonist Naji Al Ali

at the Pakistani Universities Alumni Club in Jabal Amman.

★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Abu Jaber estate, Yadoudeb (next to Kan Zaman).

★ Art exhibition by artists Abir Al Bawab, Michael 'Ujjalat, Mohammad Abu Aftah, Amari Mash'al, and Mohammad Abu Aziz at Abu Nseir Club.

★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.

★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Fuhes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

★ Discussion session entitled "Jordan after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli Agenda" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Jordan's 3 women candidates explain why they see victory in Nov. elections

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The three women running for the November parliamentary elections are confident of victory because they believe that the electorate has changed its outlook on women becoming deputies and participating in political life since the last general elections.

The three candidates, Toujan Faisal, Janet Mufli and Nadia Bushnaq, regretted that the number of women running for the current parliamentary elections had decreased three-fold over the 1989 elections (from 12 to 3) and, they said, that people were not as enthusiastic about the process as they were in the last elections.

They said the recent developments in the region and

the change in the Election Law might not be desirable factors in their favour. But, the three candidates, who all ran for the 1989 elections and lost, insisted that this time it is different.

"I feel I am going to win," said Nadia Bushnaq, candidate for one of the four Muslim seats out of six in Zarqa which is being contested by 53 other candidates (in the 1989 elections, Ms. Bushnaq got 2,602 votes, finishing 21st among 60 candidates running for six seats).

"It is true that Zarqa is considered one of the difficult constituencies for an easy victory, but I believe that women are now more mature with respect to knowing their rights and in regard to women's participation in voting and running as candidates."

Ms. Bushnaq, who is president of the General Union of Jordanian Women-Zarqa Branch, said she mostly depends on the wide popular base she has established during her 20 years of work among Zarqa residents and in the rural and poor areas.

"I don't have that great a number of relatives that would be considered tribal or family support," said Ms. Bushnaq, who has also headed several women's charitable societies and has been a human rights activist. "I don't belong to a political party or have specific affiliations... all I depend on is the reputation I earned through my work with the people."

The two other candidates, Toujan Faisal and Janet Mufli, both competing for the Circassian seat in Amman's Third District, also believe

that the situation has changed and they are optimistic that the next parliament is going to include at least one woman. But both dismissed the notion that competing for the same seat lessens their chances of winning.

"I have my own popular base that I depend on... whether my rival is a man or a woman, makes no difference," said Ms. Faisal who obtained 1,324 votes in the 1989 elections when she ran for the Amman's Fifth District, finishing 41st.

"I know it is either me or Toujan," Ms. Mufli said. "She (Ms. Faisal) was supposed to run in the Fifth District, but because of lack of coordination, we ended up competing for the same seat."

Nevertheless, both candidates have great expecta-

tions.

For Ms. Faisal, her optimism is based on what she describes as the recent loss of public confidence in Islamic movements compared with four years ago. The Islamists' attempts to tarnish her image by accusing her of being an apostate ended in failure, according to Ms. Faisal, in a reference to the apostasy and atheism case "fundamentalists" filed against her in October 1989, but that was rejected by the Islamic Court at that time.

Ms. Faisal said, that incident had broadened her views on how to go about campaigning in the coming elections.

"This time I have more experience and more confidence to enter elections," she said. "I have passed through the most difficult situation

when I received death threats... I think I can pass through this experience with more confidence and determination now."

Ms. Faisal, who said she had more hopes of winning than last time, said she depends mostly on her social and political activities as well as on her background as a "fighter," an audacious speaker and defender of people's rights.

She said that depending on her connections, friends and sympathisers derives from her having no party affiliation and her disbelief in women's movements and women leaders in the country.

"I did not and I do not depend on women's votes as such since women's movements and women leaders do not have the power to con-

vince their husbands or their children to vote for them," she maintained.

Janet Mufli, who was a late decider on whether to run or not, said that her basic platform is women.

Like Ms. Faisal and Ms. Bushnaq, Ms. Mufli hopes that she would reap the fruits of her continuous work in the field of women's rights and social issues in these elections.

"Women should realise that they have to make women reach parliament," said Ms. Mufli (who obtained 2,604 votes in the 1989 elections, finishing 9th among 55 candidates). "I am very disappointed that there are only three women candidates this time, which is a bad sign... but seeing people's reactions around me and in the street

(with regard to women's participation), I am more hopeful this time."

Women activists who refrained from entering the elections battle this time, including those who ran for the 1989 elections and those who earlier this year said they would nominate themselves, believe that the current situation in the country is still unfavourable to women.

President of the Women's Union in Jordan (WUJ) Asma Khader said the nature of elections this year and the tribal character it has taken discouraged her from running for elections.

She also cited "the split witnessed in the women's movement in Jordan and the lack of a unified stand among women" as other obstacles to her participating as a candidate.

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Defusing the keg

JEWISH SETTLERS in the West Bank and in Gaza, or at least many of them, must prepare for leaving the occupied Palestinian territories. This was essentially the message that came out from both Palestinian and Israeli leaders this week. Nabil Shaath, the influential Palestinian negotiator and the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, told an Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, three days ago that the Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip would not be welcome there for long. Although Shaath confined himself to talking about the Gaza settlements, he and other Palestinian and Arab leaders would press for removing settlers from all occupied Arab territories, whether in the West Bank or Gaza. What Shaath apparently has in mind is that once Gaza comes under PLO control, the Palestinian leadership would need Gaza, one of the most populated regions on Earth, and consequently it cannot accommodate both Palestinians and Jews. Tension between the two communities has been at the centre of the developments of the last few years, especially that the disparity between the two peoples is starkly obvious. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his police force will have a less tedious task to ensure stability and security without the explosive mixture of Hamas' and radical settlers.

On the wider context of a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict and the Palestinian issue, the continued existence of settlements in the West Bank, Gaza or the Golan will be like nourishing the roots of a future conflict, given the scarcity of land and water and the understanding that the displaced Palestinians of 1967 who number several hundred thousands will eventually have to return to the West Bank and Gaza in accordance with the Sept. 13 agreement for Palestinian self-rule.

In this vein, the remarks made by Israeli Minister Shulamit Aloni on Friday are comforting indeed. Ms. Aloni has advised her fellow ministers not to raise the hopes of settlers by continuously repeating that settlers have nothing to fear.

Settlements have always been and will continue to be impediments to peace. Their evacuation and dismantling will neither be easy nor imminent. But a declaration of intent and planning for an eventual surrender of all Palestinian land to the Palestinians, outlining a practical mechanism — Palestinians buying of settler homes, for instance — is the best option to defuse the powder keg.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE CAN be no peace without Syria and there can be room only for a just and comprehensive peace in this region, said Al Ra'i daily Monday in commenting on the Clinton administration's Middle East coordinator's new tour of the region. Two years have passed, with Israel procrastinating and stalling over any progress along the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks, simply because the United States has been totally biased towards the Jewish state, supporting its views and policies, said the daily. Israel has displayed its intransigence and continues to reject calls for withdrawals from Lebanese and Syrian territories, in implementation of U.N. resolutions. Washington is fully aware of this situation, continued the paper. It said that Dennis Ross's tour, which starts in Cairo Monday, is aimed at stimulating the peace process and creating the opportune atmosphere for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's coming shuttle diplomacy in the region. But such moves on the part of Mr. Ross and Mr. Christopher clearly show that peace process is facing difficulties and obstacles and that there is urgent need for strenuous efforts to overcome them, added the paper. It is important for the peace sponsor to make such moves, but what is more important is playing the effective role to ensure results, it argued. What is required, it said, is pressure from Washington on Israel to accept and implement U.N. resolutions in full.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday described the United States as a warmonger whose military establishment and military manufacturers are bent on causing sufferings for mankind. Bader Abdul Haq said that the Iraqi people are made to suffer at the hands of the Americans who continue to impose sanctions, depriving the innocent people of medicine and food, Jordan and the Jordanians are made to suffer through a siege imposed on international shipping in Aqaba while the Lhyan are subjected to some degree of sanction by the United States and its allies, he said. With American help and backing, the Israelis have brought untold sufferings on the Palestinian people since 1948 and perpetuating their aggression on the Arabs and their occupation of Arab land, added the writer. He said that United States is also to be held responsible for the sufferings of other nations, like North Korea and the unfortunate South African people. He said that history will not be respectful of these actions which are based on "armongering and repression and which entail injustice, racism and colonialism."

The View From Fourth Circle

Norman, Oliver, Michael, Ella and 200 million dancing Arabs

Since the end of the cold war, many people in the United States have been working hard to provide a global context or framework that would explain the relationships among different countries and cultures. Several possibilities were proposed and discarded. The two most important were the model of trilateral economic competition among the U.S., Europe and Japan, and Fukuyama's "end of history" concept that saw all people moving towards the West's model of free market democracy.

More recently, these concepts have been overtaken by a more complex but disturbing theory suggested by the noted American scholar Samuel Huntington, to the effect that cultural clashes and conflicts between different civilisations will mark the next stage in global conflict. He suggests that Islamic and Confucian cultures are the two most likely

adversaries for western culture. This "clash of civilisations" theory is intriguing, though we will have to wait years or decades to find out if it is correct. I am not convinced that Huntington is correct, for I suspect that he is falling into the same trap of intellectual and cultural arrogance that defines much of American civilisation today — the apparent need to affirm the supremacy of American culture and to defend it against foreign foes, whether those foes are real or imaginary.

There is nothing inherently incompatible between, say, American and Arab cultures, or, on a broader scale, between western and Islamic civilisations. The opposite is true; Arab and American cultures share many values and their people are drawn to one another spontaneously and naturally when they interact in a non-exploitative and mutually respectful context.

The central, defining attribute of American culture is individualistic consumerism — the production, marketing and consumption of useful and useless commodities as a means of creating wealth and improving people's living standards. American policy in this region and elsewhere in the world aims ultimately to serve this single commercial imperative, by assuring access to raw materials and new markets. If this means destroying Iraq, winking at democracy's demise in Algeria, cultivating neo-pharaonic autocrats on the Nile or pestering Islamist/military alliances on the Nile or in Iran, then all this and more will be done to serve the East that responds to American commercial interests.

Most Arabs who are at the receiving end of United States policies are uncomfortable in their indignity and seek an alternative vision to that offered by American consumerism and individualism. We do not want our children, for example, to follow the pattern of children in New York City — where one in every five schoolchildren carries a gun or knife to school. We like Pepsi Cola and other consumer items, but we do not want to emulate a society in which the production and consumption of Pepsi Cola are higher national goals than safeguarding the family unit or educating children in school environments free of weapons, drugs and violence.

It is interesting to note that the Chinese and French governments are also fighting back against the threat of cultural domination by the United States and its example of rampant consumerism — in their cases, by opposing unchecked penetration of their societies by American films, TV shows, satellite transmissions and other forms of electronic media and entertainment. The French and Chinese, like the Arabs, enjoy the blessings of a strong and distinct cultural identity that is satisfying to them and that they do not want to sacrifice on the altar of double cheeseburgers, refrigerators that speak to you or sneakers that shine in the dark.

The profound sense of security and identity that individuals enjoy in Arab culture is in stark contrast to the alienation, fears and vulnerabilities that many individuals suffer in American culture. In this respect and others, there are very deep differences between Arab and American civilisation; and the resentment that largely defines Arab attitudes to the U.S. reflects a fear that our way of life may have to give way to theirs. This is a humbling prospect to many Arabs who already feel bitter because of the U.S.'s pro-Israeli policy and its traditional support for autocratic Arab/Israeli leaderships.

By Rami G. Khouri

The idea of our being transformed into a huge new market for dog food and low-fat milkshakes is not one that generates much excitement around here — especially in the wake of our modern experience at the receiving end of U.N. double standards in international law, implementing U.N. resolutions, promoting democracy and safeguarding human rights. The fact that most Arabs who oppose U.S. policy are relatively poor reflects the economic dimension to the alleged clash of civilisations. I don't see many oil-producing princes clashing away with the West in their Mercedes and Cadillacs, but I do see a confrontational posture among many poor Arabs who have gotten poorer in the last decade.

The global battle under way now is not a civilisational clash, but rather an old fashioned confrontation between a combination of political and commercial interests. Yet, a clash may be

"The global battle under way now is not a civilisational clash, but rather an old fashioned confrontation between a combination of political and commercial interests. It would be intellectually sloppy and historically false...to explain the current confrontations in terms of clashing civilisations, when they are primarily the consequence of past injustices, resulting from biased, self-serving and often imperialistic western policies."

the inevitable consequence of the last half-century of western exploitation and interference in our region. It would be intellectually sloppy and historically false, therefore, to explain the current confrontations in terms of clashing civilisations, when they are primarily the consequence of past injustices resulting from biased, self-serving and often imperialistic western policies.

The clash of civilisations theory is appealing to Americans who seek new explanations for the hostility and resentment they seem to encounter in most parts of the world. Instead of seeking answers in the particularities of other cultures, Americans would do well to explore the faults in their own. The rest of the world is not telling Americans to go away and take their culture with them...It is telling Americans: we like the egalitarian, the productive and the fun elements in your culture, but we dislike the arrogance and provincialism that are a consequence of the triumph of materialistic and individualistic commercialism over communal humanism. Keep Norman Schwarzkopf and Oliver North for yourself and send us Michael Jordan or Ella Fitzgerald, and then watch our two civilisations interact; not only they will not clash, but they will dance and sing together; they will learn from and enjoy one another, as happens naturally between friends who respect one another.

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South Africans see Nobel as incentive, not reward

By Brendan Boyle
Reuter

CAPE TOWN — South Africans see the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to ANC leader Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk as an incentive rather than a reward.

The prize, announced in Oslo on Friday, should help ensure that Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk, the two most powerful men in South Africa, stand firm against political violence and do not give up their work for a peaceful transition to democracy, they say.

"This Nobel prize should be seen as a supreme incentive to seek peace...with renewed vigour," said an Afrikaans columnist who uses the pseudonym Dawie in the newspaper Die Burger.

The Nobel committee itself sent the same message. The prize was "a pledge of support for the forces of good, in the hope that the advance towards equality and democracy will reach its goal in the very near future," it said in its citation.

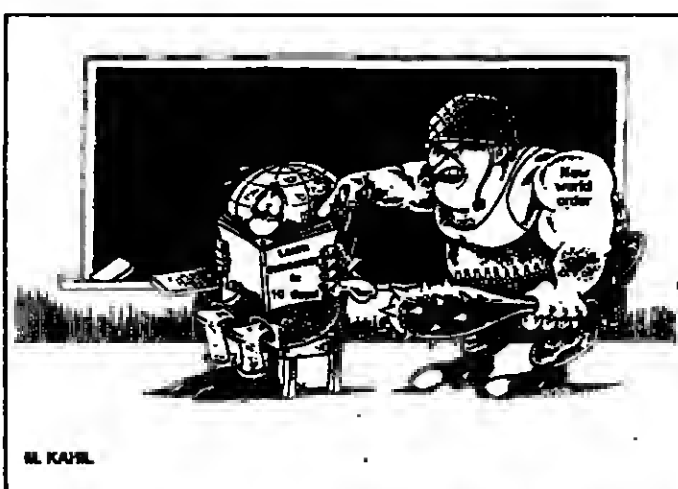
"The Nobel Peace Prize is not a declaration of sainthood," added Francis Sejersted, the head of the committee.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in political conflict in South Africa since Mr. de Klerk released Mr. Mandela from prison in February 1990 and began to dismantle apartheid.

The average death rate, mainly in the black townships where people hope to vote for the first time in April, is running at the unprecedented level of about 18 a day.

The government attributes the carnage to a political turf war between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

Mr. Mandela says anti-democratic forces, run or condoned by Mr. de Klerk's white government, are stirring it up.



Willie Esterhuysen, political analyst at the University of Stellenbosch, said that while neither man had done much on the ground to stem violence, their efforts towards democracy were the best possible contribution to peace.

"I don't think the peace prize will have much effect at grassroots. I'm not even sure many people there (in the townships) know what it is or what it stands for," he added.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the Nobel Peace Prize he won in 1984 gave blacks hope amidst the worst repression of all the four decades of apartheid.

But its main effect was to focus world attention on apartheid and open doors abroad for its foes, rather than to inspire impoverished black South Africans to seek peace.

Mr. Mandela said the 1993 award underlined his and Mr. de Klerk's obligation to fight even harder to turn the tide of violence.

"I...pledge that in whatever time remains to me, I will spare no effort to bring peace, freedom and justice for all to South Africa," he said.

Mr. de Klerk told a news conference the award recognised the progress made to-

wards democracy, which was the route to peace, and posed a challenge to all South African leaders.

"This award...will serve as an inspiration to me and I hope all other leaders to finalise an accord on which we can base long-term peace and which can ensure long-term stability."

The Cape Town newspaper The Argus welcomed the prize, but said in an editorial it was an award made on trust.

"It presupposes...that the awarding of the prize will not become merely a symbol of wishful thinking or the premature proclamation of success," the newspaper said.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party and the third man in South African politics, paid tribute to Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk. But he too said they had still to earn the accolade.

"My deepest hope is that this award will strengthen their resolve to act for peace for our beloved country...for they will have to ensure that the qualities which the Nobel Peace Prize attempts to reward emerge as the dominating qualities in their lives," he said.

U.S. scholar urges early implementation of Mideast accord

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — One month after the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles signing, PLO and Israeli leaders realise there is "no time to waste" in the pursuit of Middle East peace, according to Brookings Institution senior fellow William Quandt.

While noting that pieces of the peace puzzle are now "ready to fall into place," Mr. Quandt warned of the hazards of delay in implementing the agreement, since the pieces "might not be ready a year from now... we shouldn't bet on the future always turning up better cards than are in hand."

"A lot has already changed... the Arab diplomatic boycott of Israel is eroding as we speak," and Israeli Prime Minister Yasser Arafat have met for the second time," the noted U.S. Mideast scholar told the Women's National Democratic Club, at an Oct. 14 luncheon.

For the U.S. "few foreign policy interests seem higher on the agenda than U.S. Arab-Israeli peace," he said. The United States has long called for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours and democratisation, he added. "There aren't very many places in the world where the U.S. can support its principles while serving its national interests so well."

Mr. Quandt said that it the next six months bring "reasonable implementation" of the accord and movement toward a declaration of principles between Syria and Israel, then "the whole Arab-Israeli conflict is going to look different... it will change into a very different kind of a Middle East where real economic growth begins to be seen."

Countries of the Middle East "paid a huge price" for their historical conflict," Mr. Quandt said. "They have spent

a huge amount of their income on arms, and as a result... the Middle East is much less developed than other regions of the world."

"In normal circumstances, Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan could all expect (to gain) from a peace dividend," he pointed out, citing their educated populace, entrepreneurial talent and "demonstrated capacities for rapid economic growth."

"There is no reason we couldn't see an emerging economic common market in the Mediterranean that would be quite impressive," he said.

Mr. Quandt also predicted that peace and economic development would lead to "a transformation in Arab politics."

Providing some interesting background on the Sept. 13 accord, Mr. Quandt said the Israeli-PLO accord was completed in a marathon eight-hour telephone call among the principals to the agreement, and while "neither side could get all it wanted," the Israelis agreed for the first time that Jerusalem be on the agenda.

Negotiations on key issues such as refugees, borders, and the status of Jerusalem were "postponed in the hope that circumstances for settlement would improve in the future," he said. "I'm inclined to think the Palestinians and Israelis negotiating on these and other issues already have discussed them enough to know what will have to be done."

Mr. Quandt, a National Security Council adviser for President Carter at the Camp David Accords, said the two agreements differ widely in the way they were negotiated. At Camp David, he said, after an initial meeting between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the principals never spoke directly until the agreement was completed.

"It took 27 drafts of the accord... before one was finally accepted by both," Mr. Quandt said. In contrast, he noted, the Israelis and Palestinians conducted their own direct negotiations in Oslo.

As for the Syrian track, he commented that "something other than a Norwegian style back channel is going to be needed to spur progress... The nature of our relationship with Israel makes it inevitable that if Israel is going to make certain concessions on the Golan Heights, they are going to have reassurances from us," he said.

"I think we (the U.S.) are going to have to engage in a more classic mediation role."

Responding to questions on controlling U.S. arms sales to the region, Mr. Quandt said that apart from the oil producing states "there aren't very many countries that can afford expensive (military) equipment."

"A political decision" is required by those who face the consequences of heavy arms purchases on unemployment and their key constituencies, he said.

"I think we have to face up to this as a major political issue. In the post-cold war era, we've got to find something else for people to do," he underscored, acknowledging that "some kind of conversion of these industries is going to take time."

Mr. Quandt also pointed out that there "are legitimate security concerns in the Middle East, and there are going to be cases where we for good reasons are going to want to make some kind of arms sale to some regime."

Ultimately, the biggest contribution the U.S. can make to its own security interests is in supporting "the kind of diplomatic peacemaking I have been talking about," he said — United States Information Agency.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

Jobs are leading concern for world youth

By Judith Schoolman
Reuter

NEW YORK — The world's youth want to get good jobs so they can buy all the goods they see advertised on television, according to worldwide opinion-polls released at the end of September.

In the studies of children's attitudes and how they affect them as consumers, getting a good job is a leading concern for many of the world's youth, who also believe that advertising — particularly on television — is the best way to learn about new products and services.

And, according to the series of studies by public opinion research firm Yankelovich Partners, the majority of youth are looking forward to becoming older teens and adults, despite concerns about war, AIDS and being in a car crash.

According to the studies of children and young adults, 64 per cent of children in Italy said getting a good job was a leading concern. In the United States, the figure was 61 per cent, 60 per cent in Britain, 36 per cent in Germany and 33 per cent in Japan.

The majority, between 60 and 87 per cent, said they were looking forward to becoming older teenagers or adults, with the exception of Italy, where less than half agreed with the statement.

"Social commentators have drummed into us that today's youth faces greater challenges and has more anxiety about the future than any previous generation," said James Taylor, president of Yankelovich Partners.

"Guess what? They're kids and have an openness and optimism that we should not misunderstand."

Across the board, children perceived that getting home-work done (54-58 per cent) and getting good grades (65-84 per cent) was most important to their parents.

"Children understand that their education is of vital importance to their parents," said Roy Cohen, of Stratex Yankelovich, a subsidiary in Belgium.

When asked, 58-80 per cent of children in the United States, Italy, Japan and Britain agreed that advertising is the best way to find out about new products and services.

In Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands, children were less likely to admit that advertising influenced their purchasing decisions, with 41-48 per cent agreeing that ads were the best way to find out about new products and services.

However, television is the mode of communications most valued by children, who, according to the survey, watch an average of 2.4 hours every weekday and 3.4 hours per day on weekends. Children in the United States watch an average of 2.8 hours on weekdays and 4 hours on weekends.

Of the countries surveyed, children in Britain watch the most TV — three hours per day during the week and 4.6 hours on weekend days.

A disturbing 21 per cent of U.S. respondents said they seldom or never read a newspaper on a daily basis.

In contrast, the majority (51-72 per cent) of youth in Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Britain said they read a newspaper every day, with 40 per cent of German and Italian youth reading one daily.

Many children have pressing concerns, with AIDS ranking among the top. Eighty-one per cent in the United States said they were concerned about AIDS, 65 per cent in Germany, 72 per cent in Italy, 39 per cent in Japan, 63 per cent in Netherlands, 57 per cent in Sweden and 65 per cent in Britain.

Youth in Sweden (55 per cent) were concerned about having to fight in a war, and being in a car crash (57 per cent), as were 43 per cent of youth in the Netherlands.

American youth were found to be more socially conservative than children from overseas, with less than half (49 per cent) accepting outcasts, homosexuality (37 per cent) and nudity on television (32 per cent).

On the other end of the scale, Dutch youth enthusiastically accept nude beaches (96 per cent), nudity on television (92 per cent) and homosexuality (97 per cent).

The surveys involved at-home, in-person interviews with over 2,700 youths aged 6 to 17 in Britain, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands and Japan.

U.N. assembly president links peace to development

By Farida Burtis

NEW YORK — United Nations peacekeeping efforts cannot guarantee peace without greater emphasis being placed on creating stable economic and social conditions, notes Samuel Rudolf Insanally of Guyana, president of the recently convened U.N. General Assembly. In an interview shortly after being elected president of the 48th General Assembly, Mr. Insanally said he hopes the 184-nation institution will lay the groundwork for an "agenda for development" during his presidency.

The peacekeeping role of the U.N. has increased dramatically in the last few years. In May 1993, over 80,000 U.N. personnel were deployed in 13 peacekeeping operations around the world, including Somalia and the former Yugoslavia. In June last year, the U.N. secretary-general indicated in a report entitled "Agenda for Peace" that the U.N. has a central role for the resolution and prevention of conflicts following the end of the cold war.

"Now is the time to translate the agenda for peace into an agenda for development," said Mr. Insanally, who is also Guyana's ambassador to the U.N. He says it is time for peacekeeping to be "built upon and matched" by developmental matters. "This year will be crucial in terms of fleshing out the agenda," he added.

Greater emphasis on development must be implemented, particularly in what Mr. Insanally calls the "failed states" — countries that have not made significant progress in development for several decades. "Development is often essential for the elimination of sources of tension and potential conflict," he said.

Mr. Insanally says the General Assembly and the international community have adopted a compartmentalised approach to critical issues of peace and development for too long. "These are different sides of the same coin," he explained. "They are interconnected."

As examples, Mr. Insanally says development is essential for implementation of the historic accord on Palestinian self-rule and for the South African parliamentary decision providing blacks with a role in governing South Africa. When Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress called for lifting economic sanctions soon after the decision of the South African parliament, the U.N. and world governments responded by ending economic sanctions.

Mr. Insanally will serve as president of the General Assembly until September 1994. The assembly will meet in regular session from September to December and

thereafter as necessary. Mr. Insanally was elected president unopposed. The presidency rotates among world regions — this year Latin America and the Caribbean nominated candidates for the position.

The new president is in a position to influence the work of the world body, which has more than 150 items on its agenda. The first three weeks will consist of general debate, with speeches made by top government officials on a wide variety of international issues. At least 25 heads of state are scheduled to address the assembly.

When asked to comment on the increasing role of the U.N. Security Council compared to that of the General Assembly, Mr. Insanally said the two U.N. organs "cannot be added with one another." He added that in areas of peace and security, the General Assembly could complement the work of the Security Council.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. "The U.N. Charter allows the General Assembly to take action in many areas. We need to step back and see how we can maintain balance among the various U.N. organs," Mr. Insanally said.

Environmental issues will also be a priority, particularly if they are linked to development, during Mr. Insanally's presidency. "The link between environment and development has already been established," he said. He added that the momentum of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil last year must be sustained.

Mr. Insanally says some small island states are so vulnerable to environmental dangers that their very survival is at stake. "I am speaking as someone from the Caribbean," he said. "We need to encourage the good will of the developed countries to make the Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Barbados next year a success."

Attention to the Caribbean would not be to the neglect of other countries and other in-

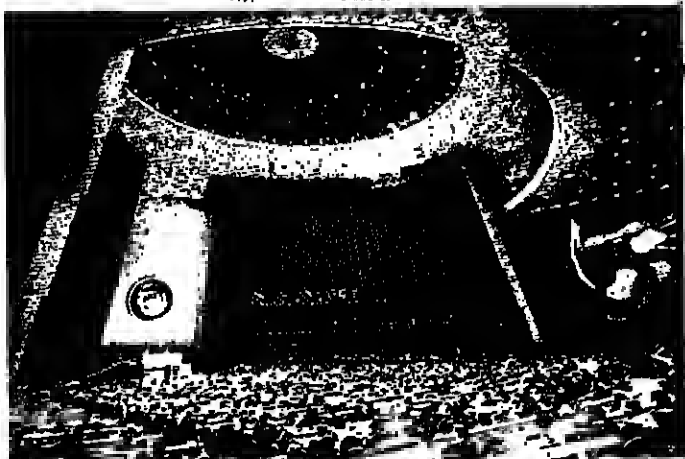
terests, Mr. Insanally added. "There is the desertification problem of Africa and other problems in terms of development with the emergence of South Africa that we really need to focus on."

Mr. Insanally says a summit of the General Assembly must take place to "interject some political dynamism" into solutions of economic and social problems. "Many of our institutions are bogged down with rhetoric," he said. The U.N. declaration for international economic cooperation adopted in 1990 "remains a sterile document," he added, noting that he hopes that the 48th Assembly will accelerate the pace of change.

"Without encouraging confrontation with any organ or agency, I think the General Assembly, which is the paramount organ of the United Nations, can look at new ways of doing things," the new president said. "It's not business as usual. It's going to be an experimental year, and it's going to be an attempt to see how far international interdependence has reached."

Asked whether the high ideals and objectives for the assembly were possible in light of allegations of U.N. waste, fraud, abuse and patronage made by former top U.N. official and by members of the U.S. Congress, Mr. Insanally said he would strive for "effective procedures to avoid extravagance or waste" and would strive to enhance the efficiency of the General Assembly.

Mr. Insanally has been Guyana's ambassador to Peru, Venezuela and Ecuador. As ambassador, he participated in the work of such organisations as the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; and the Latin American Economic System. As deputy permanent representative of Guyana to the U.N. in 1972, he was active in the negotiation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade — World News Link.



In May this year, statistics showed that 80,000 U.N. personnel were deployed in 13 peacekeeping operations around the world (WNL photo)

Hong Kong youth driven by success, apathetic about political future

By Christopher Hines
Agence France Presse

HONG KONG — Susao Cheung, 16, faces the possibility of her world being turned upside down when Hong Kong is handed over to China less than four years from now.

She recognises the ethnic ties but also feels the uncertainty.

Ms. Cheung, who lives in a public housing estate in the Hong Kong suburb of Shatin, is, like most young people here, well educated, orientated toward a western lifestyle and determined to succeed economically.

But she is almost apathetic about the current political situation because of what social workers described as a lack of information and democratic tradition.

"This is a fact we must face," Ms. Cheung says, almost casually, of Britain's handover of Hong Kong in 1997. "We may have no freedom."

Her view backs up the findings of a survey earlier this year which found that 56 per cent of Hong Kong people in their teens and 20s are either not interested in politics or feel it is useless to participate.

Instead, their priority is to

make money and be successful in the business world, according to polls commissioned by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and conducted over the past few months by the University of Hong Kong Research Centre.

"What can I do," asks Keo-oy Chung, 15, another student in Shatin. "I don't think many politicians are very good. They just want to protect their interests. Not many of them can really help the people."

One poll found that while only 35 per cent of youths surveyed believe Hong Kong's political situation will improve in the coming year, about 53 per cent expect their family's standard of living to be better.

All this adds up to the fact that young people here appear little interested in Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's attempts to increase the number of democratically elected legislators before 1997. An issue that has communist China threatening to break off Sino-British talks on Hong Kong's future.

China has also threatened to dissolve any elected body in Hong Kong when it takes control.

More than 62 per cent of those surveyed said they planned to do nothing to change

the situation.

"I don't think it's a tradition of the young people to participate in politics," said Joice Pang, a researcher with youth federation. "They feel helpless, as if their fate has been left in the hands of others."

Silvia Ng, director of a Shatin youth centre, says the British have ruled Hong Kong for more than 150 years and only near the end did they start to establish democratic institutions.

Civic classes were incorporated into the school curriculum in Hong Kong only recently, she said, and there was "no way for them (students) to speak about politics."

"I think it would have been better if we had started earlier," Ng said.

Having tucked their fears away and accepting the inevitable, the youth of Hong Kong are much like their Chinese counterparts, determined to drive ahead economically and put aside thorny political issues such as freedom of speech, artistic expression and community activism.

About 78 per cent of the youth see the opening of China's economy to Hong Kong as a major factor in their future prosperity, according to the poll, and many are interested

in working there.

A minority of Hong Kong's youth, the children of the more affluent, have been able to establish the right to residence in other countries, giving them a passport and an escape in case the aftermath of 1997 goes badly.

One real estate agent in his early 20s, who preferred to remain anonymous, said he migrated to Canada with his family in 1984 out of fear when Britain agreed to turn over the colony of more than six million residents to China.

But he has since returned, discouraged by Canada's weak economy and missing his friends and home.

"This is where I can make money," he says. "I don't think China will do anything bad."

Jay Tse, 25, an electrical engineering student, said he has no money and must stay in Hong Kong, for better or worse.

"The world is not safe as a whole. It's not only Hong Kong. It's a global problem, he says, before adding that one British precedent does worry him.

"History tells us that when Britain pulls out of a colony, it leaves behind a lot of problems."



Upgrading the infrastructure: The affluent living of Hong Kong residents makes them, and especially the youth, apathetic about politics (File photo)

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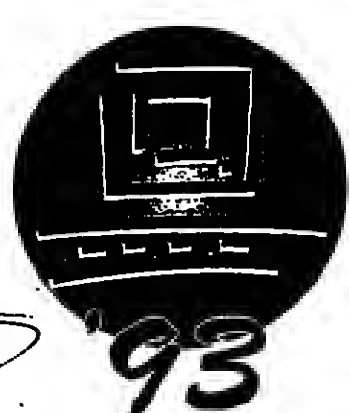
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Besieged Muslim militants in Kashmir shrine remain defiant

SRINAGAR (Agencies) — Scores of Muslim militants and civilians remained holed up inside Kashmir's holiest shrine without food and electricity Monday, refusing to surrender to the Indian army surrounding the building.

In another development, paramilitary troops fired 12 tear gas shells Monday to disperse an angry crowd of about 100 students and civilians protesting against the army siege.

Intermittent gunfire could be heard in the area for 20 minutes after the troops chased away the protestors from a field adjacent to a college campus in Srinagar, but it was not immediately clear who was firing. Also there were no reports of any injuries.

It was the first violent clash between Kashmiri civilians and the security forces since the standoff at the Hazratbal Mosque started late Friday.

On Monday, two senior officials held fresh talks with the militants for one hour, but reported little success.

"They are not coming forward with any clear-cut proposal or offer. We hope they tell us what they want," said Mehmoond Rahman, the No. 2 official in the state bureaucracy.

He said the militants told the government negotiators — Police Inspector-General Ashok Kumar Suri and Divisional Commissioner Wahjat Habibullah — to come back later Monday for more talks, which on the previous two occasions have been held on the front steps to the shrine.

The siege is one of the most serious confrontations between Indian security forces — who are mostly Hindus — and the

Muslims of Kashmir. Many Kashmiris support the ongoing guerrilla war for the secession of the overwhelmingly Muslim state of Jammu-Kashmir from the predominantly Hindu India.

Srinagar, the scenic summer capital of the Himalayan state, is the centre of the insurgency that flared up in 1989 and that has cost about 7,500 lives.

The Hazratbal Mosque, a domed, white marble building on the edge of Srinagar's Dal Lake, houses what is believed to be a hair from the Prophet Mohammad. The relic is so holy that its brief disappearance 20 years ago sparked a week of rioting.

"We are very hungry. I have not eaten anything since yesterday," said a 12-year-old boy who gave his name only as Ejaz. He was contacted by telephone in the mosque.

Other people who talked with the Associated Press on the phone said they ran out of food Sunday after living on the handful of rice that had remained in a bowl where devotees traditionally deposit their offering to the mosque. Water and electricity to the shrine were cut off earlier.

"Any demand received from the people need will receive any consideration," said Mr. Rahman, the additional chief secretary of Jammu-Kashmir. Ejaz, who said he lives near Hazratbal, had come to the shrine Friday along with a few other boys when the siege started.

Police say 60 armed rebels were inside. A militant said in a telephone interview only eight of the 175 people inside were militants, and only six

had guns.

Police said the army moved around the building Friday in the belief that militants intending to steal the relic had broken the locks of the sanctuary. The guerrillas accused the security forces of trying to remove the relic themselves in an attempt to discredit the rebels.

The militants have insisted that the military lift its curfew in Srinagar and open the mosque to the public. The demands are unlikely to be accepted because it would allow supporters to flood the shrine and help the rebels slip away.

The militants have threatened to blow up the shrine if the soldiers entered. There were unconfirmed reports that militants had spread gunpowder around the building.

Delhi said it had "hard intelligence about Pakistan's direct involvement in the conspiracy," while Pakistan accused the Indian army of "wanton sacrifice" over the operation.

Students set fire to a Hindu temple northeast of Karachi and Pakistani politicians called for demonstrations Monday to protest against the siege.

Diplomats in Islamabad expressed fears of another flashpoint in the making between the two countries which have fought three wars since attaining independence in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

India charges that the Kashmir rebellion which erupted in January 1990 was instigated and fuelled by Islamabad, which denies the accusation.

India, clearly worried that major protests against the op-

eration would erupt in Srinagar and other major towns of the Kashmir Valley, imposed round-the-clock curfews in many places.

Indian security forces killed 20 Muslim militants during a raid on a village in Kashmir Sunday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Monday.

A gunbattle erupted when the troops came under fire from the rebels while conducting a search operation in Tbaogal-Panner village in Baramulla district, the news agency said.

Twenty militants were killed in the shootout, a government spokesman told PTI. The news agency did not mention any casualties among the security forces.

Indian troops also shot dead three Kashmiri Muslim militants elsewhere in the state overnight, PTI said.

The Indian government Monday invited "impartial observers" from abroad to visit Srinagar, where Muslim militants have been holed up for the past three days.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said New Delhi had noted Pakistan's "spurious and hysterical" reaction to the siege by the Indian army of the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar.

"The government is willing to accept visits from impartial observers or individuals from abroad to assess the situation in Srinagar," the spokesman said.

In Dhaka, Bangladeshi opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed Monday called on India to show restraint in dealing with the current situation in Kashmir, and authorities in Bangladesh tightened security here.



FELLINI IN COMA: Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini, 73, was in a coma Monday in the intensive care unit of a Rome clinic after suffering a heart attack, his doctors said. "The filmmaker is unconscious. In a coma, and assisted by breathing equipment, but it is not possible to assess the seriousness of his condition because of interferences from the medication linked to the therapy he is undergoing," said Professor Maurizio Baffi, chief of the intensive care unit. "The condition of the patient is stationary and the prognosis is reserved," he said. On Aug. 3, the celebrated director of *La Dolce Vita* and *La Strada* was hospitalized in Rimini on the Adriatic coast after suffering a stroke, which itself followed a heart by-pass operation in Zurich on June 16. Following the stroke he was transferred to a hospital in the northern town of Ferrara for convalescence and then again to a clinic in Rome, but he was unable to regain complete control of his arms and legs. He was readmitted to the Umberto Primo Clinic on Oct. 9 to continue a physiotherapy programme. The photograph shows Fellini leaving the Rome hospital after recovering from the stroke (AFP photo)

Japan protests against Russia nuclear dumping

TOKYO (R) — Japan Monday demanded a permanent halt to Russia's pumping of hundreds of tonnes of liquid nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan but Moscow replied that it could not halt future dumping, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said Akira Hayashi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arms Control Department, lodged a formal protest at a meeting with Russian Ambassador Lyudmila Chizhov.

"We demand that you stop this kind of dumping," the spokesman quoted Mr. Hayashi as telling Mr. Chizhov. "We demand that you never again do this in the future."

Mr. Chizhov replied that while Russia had abandoned the dumping of solid nuclear waste into the oceans, it was unable to halt the dumping of liquid waste, the spokesman said.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said earlier he had received no advance warning from Moscow about the operation.

In Moscow Interfax News Agency quoted Russian Deputy Environment Minister Amirkhan Amirkhanov as

saying governments and international organizations had been warned in advance.

"Everything was carried out according to international norms," he said.

The environmental group Greenpeace raised the alarm Sunday after watching a Russian navy vessel pour liquid waste directly into the Sea of Japan off the maritime province in the Siberian Far East, despite a global moratorium.

The dumping comes only a few days after Moscow and Tokyo signed an agreement on the problem during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Tokyo last week.

A spokesman for the Russian Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok said the current operation had been completed, Kyodo News Agency reported.

It quoted the spokesman as saying the fleet dumped 900 tonnes of liquid nuclear waste this time.

"The Pacific Fleet is under orders to improve the storage and disposal of radioactive materials," Kyodo quoted the spokesman as saying. "But under the current economic situation, there is no other way except dumping into the oceans."

Walesa names new premier

WARSAW (AFP) — Polish President Lech Walesa Monday gave 34-year old Waldemar Pawlak two weeks to form a government, following the victory of a coalition of ex-Communists in legislative elections.

The president had earlier Monday accepted the resignation of outgoing Premier Hanna Suchocka's seven-party coalition, formed in July last year, but asked the cabinet to continue in office until parliament approves the new government.

Mr. Pawlak is the leader of the Peasants Party (PSL), which emerged as the second largest political grouping after the ex-Communists of the SLD after the Sept. 19 parliamentary elections.

Tbilisi, Georgia (Agencies) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze called Russian help Monday to halt an advance by rebel troops and vowed to take back lost territory in a rallying cry to his people.

Mr. Shevardnadze told Georgian radio he hoped Russian leaders would agree Monday or Tuesday on ways to defend his Transcaucasian republic. Hours earlier he pledged to hit back against rebels who seized a strategic western town Sunday.

"It is difficult but if we all unite we will be able to get rid of this plague (of rebels)," Mr. Shevardnadze said in a television address on Sunday night, looking tired but confident.

Rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia drove government troops out of Samtredia, an important rail and road junction in western Georgia, in bloody fighting Sunday which the Interior Ministry said killed dozens of people.

The rebels now control at least 10 towns and districts in western Georgia, including the big commercial port of Poti, while separatists have seized the western province of Abkhazia.

Mr. Shevardnadze said he would not let the rebels take Kutaisi, Georgia's second biggest city just 30 kilometres from Samtredia, and that he would throw new men into action.

"We will not need long to reinforce Kutaisi and get back Samtredia. Poti and some other regions, and to restore order at any expense," Mr. Shevardnadze said on television.

The republic, on the southern rim of what used to be the Soviet Union, was relatively



Georgian rebel supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia clean their AK-47 Kalashnikov machine guns on a street in Zagldidi, western Georgia (AFP photo)

quiet on Monday morning.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who decided to bring Georgia into the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) this month, made clear he hoped CIS troops would soon be deployed in the small, mountainous republic.

"I pin definite hopes on Russia," he told Georgian radio. "We must decide how to cooperate, how these two countries should counter what can be called an invasion of Georgia, an attack against its freedom and independence. The form, scope and strength of this will be decided today

and tomorrow."

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, said he had ordered the Georgian Defence Ministry to mobilise all remaining military personnel to repel Mr. Gamsakhurdia's rebels.

"Tomorrow they will start moving towards western Georgia because now the fate of western Georgia will decide the fate of all Georgia," he said. "We will use all means to this end including any help if it is offered."

Mr. Shevardnadze's problems have been piling up since Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a Soviet-

Yeltsin will see out his mandate, aide says

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Boris Yeltsin's official spokesman has joined other top officials in urging the Russian president to reverse his decision to call early presidential elections for June and serve out his mandate, which expires in June 1996.

"In my opinion, Boris Yeltsin should see out his mandate to the end," Vladimir Kostikov said during the weekly broadcast *Izbrani* on the independent television NTV.

Russia "needs the delay to allow new forces to develop, to allow talented young leaders who are emerging in Russia to become true statesmen," Mr. Kostikov said on the programme Sunday night.

Mr. Yeltsin, Russia's first democratically elected president who began his five-year term in June 1991, brought forward the date of the next presidential elections to June 12 next year after he dissolved parliament on Sept. 21.

Mr. Kostikov said the president had "spoken of the decision as definitive, but I would not be so categorical."

"I will do everything possible to keep the elections from going ahead next year because Boris Yeltsin is the president Russia needs," he said.

Since the government crushed the rebellion by hard-line anti-reformists in parliament on Oct. 3 and 4, Mr. Kostikov said, political change has accelerated.

"Everything that was not achieved after the failed Communist coup in August 1991 has been achieved today and the democratic revolution is spreading throughout Russia," he said.

Last week Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev both said they thought the president should see out his mandate.

In other developments, the curfew imposed on Oct. 4 in Moscow was lifted on schedule at 5:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) Monday, but authorities said a crackdown on crime would continue.

A state of emergency ordered by Mr. Yeltsin on Oct. 3 was expected to expire at 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 18.

Authorities said they had received no instructions for it to be prolonged.

Armoured troops transporters and tanks were also seen preparing to leave the capital.

The T-72 and T-80 tanks had pounded the facade of the White House parliament building, occupied by the rebels last week, before regrouping at Khodonskoe Pole, in northwest Moscow, ready to intervene again if necessary.

Troupe acts out surreal side of life in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The Sarajevo comedy troupe Surrealist Hit Parade has begun teaching citizens shell-shocked by 18 months of war how to start operating a tram service soon down the notorious "sniper alley" which runs through the middle of Sarajevo. Burned-out trams, abandoned after being shelled by Serb gunners in the early days of the siege, have been dragged back for repairs by United Nations armoured cars and the trams are being cleared. In their new video, Surrealist Hit Parade, a group of nine actors and writers, have included a sketch that goes into some of the difficulties that might be involved in using a tram service in full sight of the enemy. They see citizens being sent on a course, where they are not only reminded which door they have to use, but also at which intersections they have to look themselves to the floor to avoid snipers — women and children first, of course. One of the group's members, Zoran Djordjevic, explained that he had been working together in television comedy since 1984 and the latest video, which was still being filmed, would be shown at the Sarajevo Festival in December.

Peking to build world's largest aquarium

PEKING (AP) — Already seen the Great Wall? Don't think the Forbidden City is worth another look? Then come to Peking to visit the world's biggest aquarium. That's what the Chinese capital plans to build in a mere three years — a 35,000-square-metre (389,000-square-foot) underwater sea world that the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday would be the world's biggest. The aquarium, designed in the shape of a conch, will have sections for invertebrates, inhabitants of tropical rain forests, sharks and others, Xinhua said. Construction is to be undertaken by the Peking Zoo and a Hong Kong company, which was not identified.

Bangladesh finds new way to kill rats

DHAKA (AP) — Every year, Bangladesh farmers kill tens of thousands of rats, using cats, traps and pesticides. This year, the growers have come up with another method. They capture rats, stitch closed their anuses, and turn them into rodents that are so irritated that they begin killing other rats. "This indigenous method of setting one enemy against another is proving very effective," said Saifur Hossain, an agricultural expert heading a two-month-long national rat killing campaign. Government experts say they only began testing this method out in laboratories, after hearing some farmers talk about it. "We got wonderful results and grabbed it immediately," said Mr. Hossain. The drive against rodents has been an annual feature in Bangladesh since 1983. The campaign usually starts in late September and intensifies in October and November, when summer crops, including paddy rice, are harvested. On Sunday, 200 farmers marched through Dhaka shouting the slogans of this year's drive, which began late last month. "Rats kill them wherever you find them" some of them shouted. "God bless those who kill rats" others chanted, many of them waving the carcasses of rats they had killed.

Japanese honeymooners splurge

TOKYO (R) — Despite a prolonged recession, Japan's new-lyweds are splurging on honeymoons abroad, staying at luxurious suites in expensive hotels, the Japan Travel Bureau said Monday. Of 2,800 couples who tied the knot last month, 95 per cent went abroad for their honeymoons, the privately-owned travel agency said. Few Japanese think of pinching pennies when they get married despite gloomy economic prospects at home, it said. "The trend is still locked on expensive hotels and rooms," the travel agency said in its report. "Although these trips are getting cheaper, the thinking among (Japanese) newlyweds is that honeymoons should be luxurious." The average cost of a honeymoon package dropped 77,000 yen (\$726) to 743,000 yen (\$7,000) because the strong yen pushed down prices of airline tickets, the agency said.

Wounded Bosnians evacuated from Mostar

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Scores of seriously wounded Muslims have been evacuated from southern and central Bosnia-Herzegovina ahead of a planned exchange of thousands of Croat and Muslim prisoners, U.N. sources said Monday.

Fighting between Muslims and Croats continued in both regions as U.N. helicopters flew the wounded Sunday to Muslim-controlled Zenica, in central Bosnia, and Split, on the Croatian coast.

Two French troop transport vehicles seized from the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) meanwhile, remained in the hands of the Bosnian government army Monday, despite a personal bid to negotiate their release by UNPROFOR Commander Jean Cot. UNPROFOR spokesman Bill Aikman said here.

General Cot came to the Bosnian capital Sunday after the vehicles were seized Saturday shortly after they rescued six U.N. observers from an area exposed to heavy shelling.

Col. Aikman said the mainly Muslim Bosnian army's 1st Mountain Brigade based southeast of Sarajevo seized the vehicles with the men in them, then released the men later. One of the vehicles was armed with a machinegun.

The shelling of Sarajevo had died down since Sunday, he said, adding that 19 shells hit the city late Sunday.

Muslims and Croats, aided by UNPROFOR, evacuated 39 wounded Muslims from Mostar in the south Sunday, taking them to Zenica in central Bosnia.

Meanwhile, 52 wounded Croat troops were brought out of Nova Bila, in central Bosnia, to be hospitalised in Croatia.

On Tuesday, a two-day prisoner swap is to begin involving up to 7,000 detainees.

As the wounded were being evacuated from eastern Mostar, Bosnian Croat forces kept up heavy shelling of that part of town. The Croats have weapons superiority.

For the Muslims Mostar is the only access to the sea, 60 kilometres away, while for the Croats it is the only major town they have a serious chance of controlling. Mate Boban, president of the self-styled Bosnian Croat Republic, said back in June that he intended to make it the republic's capital.

Fighting between Muslims and Croats was also continuing in central Bosnia in the Prozor and Gornji Vakuf regions and along the Vitez-Busovaka-Kiseljak axis, with Muslims reportedly getting the upper hand.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian security chiefs 'wavered in coup'

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's security forces wavered in support of President Boris Yeltsin until late into the evening on Oct. 3 when hardliners launched an armed rebellion in Moscow, a senior military adviser said. General Dmitry Volkogonov said he found a state of confusion among many officials when called to the Kremlin after hardliners broke a siege of the White House parliament and stormed the mayor's office and television centre. "In the Ministry of Security they were saying 'it's not our business to deal with political investigations,'" Gen. Volkogonov told the Itogi Television News Digest programme Sunday night. "That's true, there's no need for political investigations. But that doesn't mean that the main interest of the ministry, the security of the state, should be put aside when the question is one of the very survival of the state," he said. "Then you cannot simply proclaim the army is outside politics," he said. "To the last moment, literally into the night this slogan was being used all around... that the army was outside politics."

Italy to shake up secret services

ROME (R) — The Italian government, shaken by coup rumours and allegations of subversion among intelligence agents, prepared to hasten a shake-up of its scandal-hit secret services Monday. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has summoned ministers and security chiefs to an unprecedented meeting Monday evening after a series of dramatic revelations which culminated with the weekend arrest of a senior intelligence official. A statement from Mr. Scalfaro's office, released Sunday night, said the aim of the meeting was to discuss what it termed "the recent episodes which have disturbed public opinion." Newspapers said the session, preceded by a cabinet meeting under Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, could accelerate reform of the secret services by scrapping the SISDE civilian intelligence branch. SISDE's reputation, already battered by allegations of Mafia links and fraud, plunged new depths with the arrest of Augusto Citanna, its section head in the northern city of Genoa. Citanna was arrested Saturday as part of an investigation into the discovery of an unexploded bomb on a passenger train last month. Two suspected members of the Camorra — the Neapolitan mafia — were also detained.

S. Korean minister sacked

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam sacked the transport minister and the head of the Maritime and Port Administration Monday over the nation's worst ferry disaster in two decades. The 110-tonne ferry Seohae, overloaded with holiday-makers and islanders, capsized and sank in rough weather off the west coast on Oct. 10, killing at least 257 people. A presidential spokesman said Transport Minister Lee Ke-ik was replaced with Chung Jai-Suk, a former trade minister. Maritime and Port Administrator Yoon Tae-Sup was replaced with Kim Chul-Yong, former director-general of the Transport Ministry. Many South Koreans had expected the transport minister to be replaced earlier this year after two major disasters that killed 143 people, but no move was made.

U.N. officials held in Angolan city

JOHANNESBURG (R) — UNITA rebels are preventing foreigners, including U.N. relief officials, from leaving Angola's starving "hell city" of Cuito, where aid officials estimate up to 30,000 people have died in a nine-month guerrilla siege. State radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Monday the foreigners included the World Food Programme's (WFP's) Mercedes Sayagues who Saturday helped ferry aid to the city, gripped by the most savage fighting of the resurgent civil war. Aid officials said hunger, wounds or disease had killed an estimated 30,000 people. Thousands were starving and about 50 people were dying each day from hunger. They said bodies were lying unburied in shell-blasted streets.

Germany gifts Patriots battery to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has received a \$102 million Patriot anti-missile battery free from Germany, the Israeli air force magazine reported Monday. The battery of eight launchers, 57 missiles and a radar control vehicle is a bigger and more sophisticated version of those deployed by the United States in Israel to try to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf war, the magazine said. In the middle of the war, as Scuds landed nightly on Tel Aviv, Germany announced \$666 million worth of military aid to Israel, including the Patriot. The old Patriot systems had little success against the 39 Scuds Iraq fired against Israel, failing to destroy any, although several were hit.

Phillies even world Series at 1-1

TORONTO (R) — Jim Eisenreich's three-run homer capped a five-run third inning and the Philadelphia Phillies held on to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 Sunday and head home with the 90th World Series even at one game apiece.

"I don't know how I got the bat on the ball, but a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while," Eisenreich said.

Every Philly starter got a hit and Lenny Dykstra, John Kruk and Dave Hollins each had two hits and an RBI. Dykstra hit a home run in the seventh inning, as Philadelphia, in its first World Series in 10 years, out-hit the defending champion Blue Jays 12-8.

The Jays tried to climb back into the game on Joe Carter's two-run homer in the fourth and single runs in the sixth and eighth, and Philadelphia closer Mitch "Wild Thing" Williams pitched with danger as usual but got the save.

Philadelphia starting pitcher Terry Lofgren earned the win with 5-2/3 innings of seven-hit, three-run ball while Toronto starter Dave Stewart got the loss after giving up six hits and five runs in six innings.

Eisenreich, who needs medicine to control the Tourette's syndrome which kept him out of all or most of the 1983-86 seasons, said: "To be able to play professional baseball is all I want to do."

He said he "had a feeling" he might hit a home run going into the game because he had a lot of success off Stewart, entering the game batting 11-for-32 off him lifetime.

"I hate losing," said Stewart, who has lost three straight World Series games and is 2-4 in full classic decisions despite an 8-0 record in American League Championship Series.

"This is not a pleasant experience and I'm always surprised when I lose," he added. "It's my fault. I got behind the batters, made a couple of pitches I shouldn't have."

Mulholland, who felt he did not have his best stuff, said his goal was to win two World Series games.

"Simple math dictates I'm halfway there and I won't be happy till I win the second," he left-handed said.

"I thought it was an outstanding effort," said Philadelphia manager Jim Fregosi of Mulholland's outing.

"They got a well-pitched game from Mulholland," said Toronto designated hitter Paul Molitor. "We kept chipping away but we really couldn't overcome the five-run third."

In that inning, Dykstra walked, took second on a wild pitch, and Mariano Duncan walked. Kruk and Hollins then hit back-to-back RBI bloop singles.

One out later, Eisenreich, on an 0-2 count, lofted his 391-foot homer to right centre to make it 5-0.

Championship Final Half



Russian international chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov (left) Monday notes down his move as his Dutch opponent, grandmaster Ian Timman, makes his move during their 14th game played in Jakarta, Indonesia (AFP photo)

Karpov beats Timman in 14th game

JAKARTA (R) — Jao Timman of the Netherlands squandered a golden opportunity for victory over Anatoly Karpov of Russia and lost the 14th game Monday of their official FIDE World Chess Championship.

Karpov increased his lead in the 24-game contest to 8.5 points to 5.5, and his three-point advantage puts him within reach of the title. The first to 12.5 points will be champion.

The next game will be played Wednesday with Timman having the advantage of the white pieces and the first move.

Timman had only himself to blame for his loss Monday. The 42-year-old Dutchman sacrificed material as early as the 13th move and soon had a clear advantage, but just at the moment when he could have won, he grabbed a useless pawn.

Karpov took control, eventually winning a difficult endgame in 53 moves and 5 1/2 hours of play.

Timman was aggressive from the start, employing the risky Vienna variation of the queen's gambit declined. He tried the Vienna variation three times before in the match, disastrously losing one game

but getting easy draws in the other two.

Karpov sprang the first surprise in the opening Friday with an unexpected bishop move that left Timman a pawn ahead but under considerable pressure.

A few moves later Timman came up with a remarkable idea, sacrificing a rook for a bishop, which Karpov almost certainly underestimated in his pre-game preparation.

After thinking for more than 50 minutes, Karpov decided to accept the offered sacrifice but was clearly not happy. Two forced replies by Timman put Karpov into deep thought again.

By now Karpov was nodding his head and muttering to himself while Timman relaxed in his private room away from the board.

When Karpov finally moved after an hour, he had only 20 minutes of thinking time left for 25 moves. Each player has 2 1/2 hours for 40 moves, or almost four minutes per move.

Then, Timman's 17th move stunned the watching experts.

"Oh no he missed a forced win," exclaimed Indonesian grandmaster Urut Adianto, commenting on the games for the public on a giant demonstration board.

Over the next few moves Timman allowed the game to get completely out of control and was soon forced to exchange into an end-game where only Karpov had winning chances. Karpov reached the first time control safely, leaving Timman slumped in his chair, regretting an opportunity lost.

"It was a bad game," commented Timman's assistant Yasser Seirawan wistfully after his player resigned. "I think they were both simply nervous. Now, it's almost over for Jan."

Timman appeared close to tears as he walked away from the game without a word to waiting journalists, knowing that his chance to become world champion is all but gone.

Karpov is without striking distance of recapturing the official world title he lost to compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985.

Kasparov was stripped of his title by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) earlier this year for refusing to play his world title match in Manchester, England, under FIDE auspices.

Instead, Kasparov, the world's top rated player, and Nigel Short, his English challenger, organised a more lucrative contest in London.

English teams look to rise from ashes of World Cup failure

LONDON (R) — Manchester United lead the way as English soccer looks to rise like a phoenix from the ashes of England's World Cup failure in the second round of Europe's club competitions this week.

The champions face Galatasaray of Turkey in the first leg of their European Cup tie, Wednesday, although Aston Villa and Norwich start the damage-limitation exercise in the UEFA Cup Tuesday.

Manchester United, who had four players in the England side beaten 2-0 by the Netherlands in the crucial World Cup qualifier last week, went some way towards restoring national pride with the

manner of their 2-1 win over Tottenham in front of 44,655, the biggest crowd of the Premier League season, Saturday.

One of the four, winger Lee Sharpe who scored United's second goal Saturday, said: "We now have to prove the game in this country has a future."

"If United and the other top teams can put on good performances against the best of Europe, and show the quality we have, it will put confidence back into the game."

Paradoxically, the domestic match held no restrictions for manager Alex Ferguson on how many of his "league of nations" squad he could send

out against Spurs.

In the clash with Galatasaray at Old Trafford, UEFA restrictions on foreign players mean that a predominantly English line-up will continue the club's quest for a second European Cup after their 1968 triumph.

United should be at full strength against the Turkish champions but are waiting on the recovery of England midfielder Paul Ince, who strained his left ankle against the Dutch in Rotterdam Wednesday.

Victory over the two legs would put United into the Champions' League, the round robin semifinal series involving the last eight in two groups of four.

S. Arabia beat N. Korea 2-1 in World Cup qualifying round

DOHA (AP) — Saudi Arabia, denied by the injury of a key striker and the suspension of another, beat a resilient North Korea 2-1 Monday, the third day of the final Asian World Cup qualifying round.

The traditional Arab headgear of many of the Saudi fans fell, as they danced, hugged, kissed and invoked Allah to celebrate their unexpected victory. All the goals came in the second half.

The Saudis now have three points from two matches, having drawn with Japan 0-0.

In the barren first half the Saudis missed half a dozen chances. Saudi Arabia came closest to scoring on the 29th minute when Hamzah Falatah dribbled past three Korean defenders and gave a perfect pass, but Saeed Owairan failed to flick the ball to the goal.

Korea's Cho Inchol was cautioned in the 20th minute for dangerous play. His team mate Yun Jongsu got a second yellow card in the 32nd minute when he was booked for dangerous play.

In the 36th minute Owairan again failed to beat Korean goalkeeper Kim Yongho from inside the penalty box. Just before the breather, the Saudis missed two sitters. Maosur

Almuainea hit out and Falatah's header from a corner missed the net.

Seconds after the break, Korean goalkeeper Kim fisted away a header from Abdullah Aldeyaea.

In the 47th minute North Korea's Cho Inchol's header flew past the bar.

The first goal for the Saudis came in the 55th minute from a joint effort by Fahad Mehelel, who came in the field as substitute for Khalid Almuawallid. He netted the ball from a corner by Khalid Almuawallid.

The North Korea-Saudi Arabia match was played at the 40,000-seat Khalifa Stadium, where temperatures soared to 34 degrees Celsius (93 Fahrenheit) when the flood lights were turned on.

Majid Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's 34-year-old captain who has played 166 times for the team, badly sprained his leg which prevented him from taking part in Monday's game.

Sami Al Jaher, another robust Saudi player, was booked for violent play in an encounter with Japan Saturday.

The North Koreans failed to demonstrate the skill and physical endurance in the first match when they beat Iraq 3-2.

Six teams are competing for Asia's two slots in the 1994 World Cup championship in the United States.

Meanwhile, Iraq's chief coach was warned Sunday that he would be severely punished if he lost his temper again like he did when he broke a chair following his team's defeat in a soccer match against North Korea.

Adnan Dirjal, once Iraq's top defender and captain of the national team, broke the chair and angrily gesticulated at the Dutch referee when North Korea's Wonnam Chow scored the winning goal in the 80th minute of Friday's game.

Iraq, which was leading 2-0 until the 63rd minute, played most of the second half with 10 players after its midfielder Saad Benayamin was expelled by referee Jacob Ulenberg for violent play.

"This was nothing but unruly behaviour and if the Iraqis repeat such a behaviour we

may slap severe disciplinary measure," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the FIFA's Asian Football Confederation.

"If such behaviour is repeated, we may impose fine or if it is serious we may take other measures," Velappan, of Malaysia, told the Associated Press.

"These incidents are ungentlemanly and bring disrepute to the game," the warning statement by FIFA said Sunday.

"FIFA wish to warn Adnan Dirjal against such behaviour and any further repetitions will incur severe disciplinary measures."

Iraq have enlisted the country's most successful coach to lift the team's morale.

Ahmad Baha, who guided them to 1986 finals in Mexico, was recalled for the remaining Asia final round matches, said a member of the Iraq Football Federation.

Dirjal was criticised for a poor tactical substitution in Friday's match against North Korea.

Blatter: French federation may be in awe of Tapie

DOHA, Qatar (R) — The French Football Federation might have been more decisive in dealing with allegations of match-rigging against Marseille if it had not been for the strong personality of club President Bernard Tapie, FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter suggested Monday.

"It may have been that the French federation would have acted if it was not for the personality of Bernard Tapie," he said. "The whole affair is damaging the reputation of soccer."

Tapie, a multi-millionaire businessman who previously had a controlling interest in the Adidas sportswear giant, is also a former government minister.

Blatter said the French could follow the lead of the Bulgarian Football Association, which recently demoted club side Yantra for match fixing and suspended the players and coach involved for up to two years.

"The French federation know they have to make a decision — you cannot have a permanent suspension. I think there will be a decision before the end of the year," he said.

Holders Marseille have been expelled from this season's European Cup and stripped of their French League title because of the bribery allegations.

The affair has centred on Marseille's former general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes and defender Jean-Jacques Eydelie who are accused of offering bribes to three Valenciennes players to fix a match last season.

Europe's elite let off the hook

PAIRS (AFP) — Europe's top clubs were let off the hook at the weekend, as the rivals of AC Milan, Barcelona and Eintracht Frankfurt all failed to capitalise on an off day for the league leaders.

Only Paris St. Germain bucked the trend with a narrow 1-0 victory over Metz, thanks to their Liberian-turned-French striker George Weah.

AC Milan's iron defence was pierced for the first time this season, with Foggia's Russian midfielder Igor Kolyvanov volleying home after an hour.

But not only did Croatia's Zvonimir Boban salvage Milan's unbeaten record with a late equaliser, second placed Parma missed a golden opportunity to go top on goal difference by drawing 0-0 at Cremonese.

Parma, the European Cup winners, Cup holders, will probably lay the blame on Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla, who was ordered off for retaliation after barely half an hour.

Joining Parma on 12 points are Juventus, the only one of the top four to win, who beat Atalanta 2-1 at home thanks to a Roberto Baggio penalty and a strike from German international Andreas Moller.

Moller's winner also made him Italy's joint top goalscorer with Maurizio Ganz, on six goals apiece.

Sampdoria could also have pulled level with Milan but despite a second-half onslaught led by England captain David Platt and Dutch star Ruud Gullit could not cancel out Abel Balbo's goal for AS Roma.

Nine-man Lazio still managed to beat 10-man Piacenza with a last minute penalty converted by international striker Giuseppe Signori on his return from injury.

Defenders Ezio Lazardi, who tried to punch an opponent who was lying on the

ground, and Roberto Cravero, who picked up two yellow cards, got their marching orders for Lazio in the first half.

Piacenza defender Settimio Lucchi suffered the same fate as Cravero, and even his team's coach, Luigi Cagni, was shown the red card three minutes from the end for gesticulating too wildly from the bench.

England playmaker Paul Gascoigne made an earlier-than-expected return from injury but could only put in a patchy performance, and was substituted seven minutes from time.

In Spain, Barcelona crashed to their first defeat of the season, going down 1-0 to Deportivo La Coruna in a match which saw Ronald Koeman, the villain in Holland's World Cup triumph over England, involved in fresh controversy.

Koeman, who deserved to be sent off for bringing down David Platt when he was clear through on a run at goal in Rotterdam, was lucky to get off without a booking when he pulled down a Coruna forward.

But there was no stopping Brazilian goal ace Bebeto, who scored the winner.

Despite Johan Cruyff's bitter disappointment, the Spanish champions were fortunate enough not to lose top slot to the first division.

Second placed Valencia, like Parma, missed their chance completely.

Beateo 2-0 at Logrones, Valencia finished the weekend where they started, but goal difference keeps them ahead of Johan Toshack's Real Sociedad, who joined the leaders on 10 points after beating Atletico Madrid 2-1.

Real Madrid, who are having one of their most dismal seasons in the club's history, have their goalkeeper Francisco Buyo to thank for a goalless draw against Tenerife, who completely dominated the capital club.

In Germany, Werder Bremen similarly let Frankfurt off the hook — but the headlines went to Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthaus for alleged racism comments about the Dutch.

The German captain reacted a virulent outburst when he was filmed by a Dutch tourist at the Munich Beer Festival, according to Monday's edition of Der Spiegel magazine.

"You Dutch are all arseholes," Matthaus exploded. "It seems like Adolf forgot to take care of you," he said in a reference to the German occupation of the Netherlands during World War II.

Matthaus, who has played in anti-racist matches, told the magazine he could recall a dispute with the tourist but denied the remarks attributed to him.

Back on the pitch, Frankfurt saw their unbeaten run ended by a Michael Preetz goal for MSV Duisburg Friday night.

But Bremen, three points adrift, could only manage a goalless draw against newly-promoted strugglers Freiburg.

Bayern, who play English side Norwich City in the UEFA Cup Tuesday, moved up a place to third with a 3-1 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Matthaus, playing before the storm broke, opened the scoring with a fourth minute penalty.

Swiss goal ace Stephane Chapuisat was on target again with the winner for Borussia Dortmund in their 2-1 victory over high-flying SV Hamburg.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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FENDING OFF DANGER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 3 2
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A K 3
♣ A K 10 3

WEST
♠ A J 8 6
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 9 5

EAST
♠ Q 10 7
♥ Q J 10 8 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ K 5 4
♥ A J 8 4
♦ 9 5
♣ Q J 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

The expert's severest critic is the player himself. All the stars strive for perfection, even though each knows it is impossible to achieve.

And when a pro errs, he is usually the first to apologize for the slip. Here's an example of what we mean.

From a top-level game in Sweden.

With only three-card support.

North could not make a forcing raise of opener's suit. North tempo-

rized by responding at the two-level, then jumped to game over South's minimum rebid.

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer liked the dummy that came down. After winning on the table, declarer led a trump to the jack, which won. When South cashed the king of trumps and West showed out, there was a problem.

Declarer did as well as possible by cashing the remaining high trump and trying to run the clubs. Unfortunately, East ruffed the third club and shifted to the ten of spades.

That netted the defenders three spade tricks for a one-trick set.

Declarer was quick to point out the contract should have been made. Obviously, East must be kept off lead and the way to accomplish that at trick two was simply to cover any trump East produced. West would win the first trump with the nine, but could do no damage. Suppose West reverts to a diamond. Declarer wins, leads a trump to the king and, when West shows out, returns to the table with a club to take the marked trump finesse. The last trump is drawn, a spade goes away on the clubs and 10 tricks can be claimed.

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Shaath urges Jordanians to set up joint ventures in occupied territories

Israel is not an economic threat to Arabs, PLO negotiator says

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Monday called on Jordanian businessmen to move quickly to set up joint ventures with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to ensure a major role in rebuilding the occupied territories and the Palestinian economy in general.

Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and a key negotiator with Israel on the implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy accord, also said that there was little ground for Arab fears that the Jewish state would economically dominate the Middle East.

Dr. Shaath, addressing a conference of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen and bankers, said that the autonomy agreement was "not exactly the best of agreements in the world," but that given the situation in the Middle East and the international scene, it was the best the Palestinians could have hoped for at this point in time.

"I could pick thousands of flaws in the accord," said Dr. Shaath. But the most important thing, he said, is that the agreement was a political breakthrough after "the so many missed opportunities of the 1980s, '70s and '60s" and opened the door for the Palestinians to advance in their quest to regain their political and territorial rights.

Dr. Shaath, an eloquent speaker, presented the picture of a PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the world's Palestinians, moving on a carefully orchestrated path with no doubt whatsoever of the ultimate objective of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Helping the PLO along the way are the shifting priorities on the international and regional scene after the collapse of the Soviet Union, he said.

"Israel is no longer a

strategic asset for the U.S. either in the context of posing a counter-balance to the Soviet Union or in the context of protecting oil sources," he said. With the demise of the Soviet Union, the threat of a superpower takeover of the region is no longer existent, and with the reality that "the U.S. is right there where the oil is," there is no longer any Western concern over the stability of oil supplies, he said, referring to the American military presence in the Gulf and the defence pacts some of the Gulf states have signed with the U.S.

As a consequence of its diminishing strategic value to the U.S., Israel can no longer hope to receive the almost unlimited political, moral, military and financial support that it used to get from Washington, Dr. Shaath said.

In any event, the PLO was not bargaining away any of its cards by agreeing to the final shape of the occupied territories, he said.

"We have not negotiated any of the vital elements of the (autonomy) agreement and the door is open for us to negotiate everything," said Dr. Shaath, referring to the "final status" negotiations scheduled to begin not later than the third year of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He argued that comments made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, as well as other officials, that an independent Palestinian state was out of question were mainly aimed at pacifying their own constituents.

Reminded that his own words could also be considered as aimed at soothing Palestinian fears, Dr. Shaath said: "We, the Palestinians, are supported by international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," which call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, while the Israeli position is weak since it is the occupier.

Dr. Shaath, who heads the Palestinian team to negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the self-rule accord, said it was a foregone conclusion that the Palestinian economy had to be closely intertwined with the Jordanian economy since it was not in their interest to continue to be tied with the Jewish state.

In this context, as well as that of

short- and medium-term prospects for contracts and investments in the occupied territories with international financing, Dr. Shaath urged Jordanian businessmen not to waste time in joining hands with the Palestinians.

"If I were a Jordanian businessman, I would be moving quickly to set up joint ventures with Palestinians in the occupied territories, build hotels and set up industries," he said.

Delving into prospects of a boom in tourism to the Holy Land as the main motivating factor for building hotels there, Dr. Shaath reminded the audience: "There are four million Palestinians who have not seen Palestine; there are 200 million Arabs who have not seen Palestine; and there are one billion Muslims who have not seen Palestine."

The Palestinians, working through the newly-set up Palestinian Emergency Development and Reconstruction Authority (PEDRA), will ensure that only joint ventures involving Palestinian firms in the occupied territories would be given infrastructure projects and a role in the economic development of the occupied territories, Dr. Shaath said.

Asked how this could be accomplished, given the fact that international donors, the World Bank and U.N. agencies are designated as coordinators in the rebuilding and development process, Dr. Shaath said PEDRA "will have the final say in the matter" and the donors and others should only be concerned by the feasibility and viability of projects and programmes and by arranging the financing.

According to Dr. Shaath, it is a myth that Israel would turn out to be an economic giant and dominate the regional economy.

He pointed out that the main exports of Israel were arms and diamonds, "which are not the main imports of Arab countries." Furthermore, he said, Israel is not in a position to compete with Far Eastern countries in middle-level technological products.

In general, he said, the cost of production in Israel was so high that the Jewish state's production and exports were more oriented towards the West rather than the Arab World.

"Palestine will not be the bridge for Israel to enter the Arab market," he said. On the contrary, if the Arabs play their cards right, they may be able to penetrate the Israeli market, he said.

In this context, as well as that of



RECONCILIATION TALKS: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks to reporters at his arrival in Baghdad Sunday for a several-day visit in Iraq (see page 1). Mr. Zarif reaffirmed earlier in Tehran, Iran's commitment to U.N. economic sanctions against Baghdad, underlining the importance of settling problems in the interest of a 'neighbourly relationship' between the two countries and that of regional stability (AFP photo)

Israel expected to free 6,000 Palestinian detainees soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Around 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are expected to be released in the next two weeks under an agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during talks last week, Palestinian sources said Monday.

"The release could start as early as Saturday," said one of the sources, adding that General Amnon Shahak, who led an Israeli team to the talks held in the Egyptian resort of Taba last week, had given an undertaking to this effect to Nabil Shaath, who led the Palestinian side to the meetings.

The Taba meetings, which resume Wednesday, are part of the follow-up negotiations on the implementation of the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement signed on Sept. 13.

While the Israeli and Palestinian teams met in Taba and discussed various security-related measures of the accord, delegations headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in Cairo to review the political and economic aspects of the landmark agreement, which went into effect Wednesday.

According to the sources, Gen. Shahak's undertaking came in line with a pledge made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat when they met in Cairo two weeks ago.

The sources said the Taba talks also produced an Israeli agreement to allow a team of Palestinians to visit the occupied territories to assess the "security situation" there to plan for the deployment of a Palestinian force simultaneous with the scheduled beginning of Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

The sources could not say when the team will travel to the occupied lands.

The sources confirmed that the PLO was seeking the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, leader of the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, who is serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail, as well as other Palestinians despite the uncertainties of their support for the autonomy agreement.

Dr. Shaath himself, addressing a conference of businessmen in Amman Monday, said the PLO was seeking the "unconditional and immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners" in Israeli jails.

Dr. Shaath, who put the number of detainees at 13,000, said the PLO "will not settle for anything less."

The sources said it was also understood that the release of 6,000 this week or next week would be followed up by other batches subject to further discussions.

Mr. Peres and his boss Rabin said Sunday that a

UAE and Qatar to assist Palestinian autonomy

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar are expected to contribute funds for a Palestinian authority in Israeli-held lands, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday.

Mahmoud Abbas, who on Sept. 13 signed the PLO's peace deal with Israel, told Reuters that UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan pledged aid during a meeting on Monday.

"We (the PLO) thanked the president for his support for the peace agreement and (financial) backing for the reconstruction of Palestine," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Abbas (Abu Mazen) said he discussed with Sheikh Zayed the principle of aid to Palestinians but did not touch on a specific amount.

"I also believe Qatar will not hold back," he said.

He was referring to short-term start-up costs put at \$590 million as well as a World Bank-sponsored longer term plan that could cost \$3 billion for a Palestinian authority initially set up in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Gulf Arab states were angered by the PLO sympathy with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis but have welcomed the PLO-Israeli accord on Palestinian self-rule and promised to help finance it.

"I did not ask Sheikh Zayed for a specific amount. He said 'we (UAE) will contribute and become partners in reconstruction,'" Mr. Abbas added.

Saudi Arabia is so far alone among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to pledge specific financial aid. It offered an initial \$100 million to help Palestinians implement the accord and more later to the long-term development plan.

Washington had urged the GCC — which apart from Saudi Arabia and the UAE includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar — to provide \$200 million in immediate aid to Palestinians.

Mr. Abbas said he expects a final decision on aid will be taken collectively when GCC foreign ministers meet next in November.

The GCC was the PLO's main backer, granting it more than \$1.5 billion in the 11 years prior to Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait alone has rejected all PLO overtures.

But the Jewish state would help them plan. Mr. Shohat expected multilateral institutions like the World Bank to handle much of the funds although some of the \$600 million would go straight to the PLO to set up a police force.

Mr. Shohat, who is committed to privatising Israel's state-dominated economy, said private business should be the engine of growth in the territories.

He said Israel would provide \$50 million over the next five years as "political insurance" or guarantees to encourage Israeli businessmen to set up joint ventures with Palestinians.

He said the Israeli economy would also benefit from the agreement but he would not give figures.

Israeli officials forecast gross domestic product growth of about four per cent a year over the next five years compared with about 4.5 per cent in 1993.

Red Cross, renovation of U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools in Gaza, and help fund International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assistance to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

He said the EC in a meeting a month ago of its 12 member states indicated it would pledge five million ECU (\$5.9 million) to help set up a Palestinian Emergency Development and Reconstruction (PEDRA), the body to administer and coordinate international donor aid.

The PLO had estimated the cost of setting up PEDRA between \$15 to \$20 million.

The EC is spearheading a European drive to lead the international aid effort to rebuild the occupied territories after a historic PLO-Israeli agreement signed last month for Palestinian self-rule.

Another six million ECU (\$7 million) grant would cover current budgets of major hospitals administered by the Dutch

Sean Connery treated at London cancer hospital

LONDON (R) — Scottish film star Sean Connery said Monday he had undergone radiotherapy treatment for a throat condition at a top London cancer hospital. In an interview with television station GMTV, the star, famous for his film roles as British secret agent James Bond, did not go into details about the nature of his health problem. But he said he had undergone six weeks of radiotherapy treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital and the treatment forced him to miss the American premiere of his new film, *Rising Sun*. Connery, 62, told others who might need to undergo the treatment that they had nothing to fear. "I was very fortunate. I didn't get any of the sleeplessness or depressions... Really, for anybody who is going to have it done, it's really a walk in the park," Connery said. Almost four years ago, he had laser treatment to remove a growth on his vocal chords.

He was referring to short-term start-up costs put at \$590 million as well as a World Bank-sponsored longer term plan that could cost \$3 billion for a Palestinian authority initially set up in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

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Letter from Geneva

THE FOLLOWING is a report filed by Waleed Sadi, a Jordan Times columnist, from Geneva. Dr. Sadi, a former Jordanian ambassador, and leading human rights activist, is attending a U.N. meeting on human rights.

THE U.N. Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is currently formulating its interpretation of Article 27 of the ICCPR dealing with minorities. The significance of this initiative comes on the heels of absence of definitive international construction on the full import and scope of what constitutes minorities in the first place.

Article 27 stipulates that "in those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right to enjoy their culture, includes to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language. In order to give this provision a more coherent meaning, the 18-member committee has decided to articulate its own general comments on the article with the view of providing an international standard on the scope and purview of minority rights. In this vein, the expert members of the HRC are driving a wedge between the right to self-determination to which "peoples" are entitled to and minority rights that are the absolute rights of "individuals" belonging to minority groups in any given state.

In this context it has been emphasised that the right of self-determination is conferred to "peoples" and not to "individuals" whereas minority rights are those cultural, religious and language rights that minorities are accorded under the ICCPR.

This line of distinction is not without controversy since some states maintain that individuals also have a right to determine their own future in the general sense. Still, this is a minority view and most countries view self-determination as essentially political rights that peoples should be allowed to enjoy. Accordingly, the committee members are leaning in favour of the proposition that minority rights and their enjoyment presupposes and the respect for the territorial integrity of states whereas the right to self-determination has no such constraints. This is the majority position of the committee in spite of the fact that Article 1 of the covenant states that the right to self-determination means also the right of peoples to determine their economic, social, and cultural development, something that makes fuzzy the attempted distinction between minority rights and the right to self-determination.

The HRC has decided to make an even clearer difference between the minority rights and other civil and political rights in the context of the right to non-discrimination, equality before the law as spelled out in

articles 2(1) and 26 of the ICCPR. In this regard it is being stated by the committee that the right to non-discrimination and equality are rights that belong to all "individuals" within the territory of a state irrespective of whether they are members of a minority group or not. Against this legal backdrop, minority rights are distinguishable from non-discrimination rights and go beyond them in the opinion of the committee members. Likewise, the right of freedom of expression protected under Article 19 of the covenant, is a right to which all individuals are entitled to, notwithstanding whether they are minority members or not.

So, again minority rights, transcend the right to freedom of expression just as it transcends the right to non-discrimination and equality before the law. Accordingly, minority rights are additional rights that extend beyond the standard human rights to which individuals are entitled to. And since the covenant enjoins a state party to afford all individuals within its territory with the rights protected under the covenant, and not only to its citizens or nationals, this is clearly spelled out in Article 2(1), on the strength of this interpretation. Even migrant workers whose nationality belongs elsewhere are entitled to the protection of their minority rights over and above the other basic rights contained in the ICCPR.

Where the debate on this topic assumed greater controversy was over the duties of a state party to protect minority rights. Given the fact that Article 27 on minority rights is expressed in negative terms when it required that minorities shall "not be denied their rights," some members construed this language as to mean that a government is obliged only to protect minority rights but not to take affirmative or positive actions for this purpose. There is a consensus, however, emerging within the committee members that a country is treaty-obligated not only to protect minority rights but also to promote them at least in a positive sense. There are those experts in the human rights body who would rather use the word affirmative measures in this context in order to give minority rights more precise parameters. Others would be satisfied if only positive actions are called for in this vein; in both cases, however, whether positive or affirmative actions are to be taken by a state, they must not be confined to state acts but also to individual acts of others within the country.

It will be recalled that 123 countries have already ratified the ICCPR and are therefore treaty obligated to honour its provisions. The jurisprudence of the HCR on the puvier of minority rights should be of interest to all states which have minorities within their territories. This makes the issue doubly important to the Middle East which is a mosaic of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

Israel Radio Arabic service to stop political broadcasts

ISRAELI Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum has ordered Israel Radio's Arabic service to stop its political broadcasts.

The broadcasts, which served as a channel of information between Israel and the Arab states, had been severely curtailed during the past year.

Kirschenbaum made the decision to stop the broadcasts because, he said, they are no longer necessary.

"Israel Radio in Arabic must be credible and not be the voice of this or that body," he said Friday. From now, all commentary in Arabic would be subject to the same journalistic principles as the Hebrew commentary, he added.

Eight people were employed by the political information section two of them as commentators. The staff has all been moved to other departments.

Israel Radio in Arabic broadcasts 18½ hours daily. According to past surveys, 90 per cent of Israeli Arab adults listen to the service at least once a week, while 39 per cent consistently listen to the broadcasts.

An IBA spokesman also said the Voice of Israel's broadcast in Arabic were popular in Arab countries.

In Jordan, it is listened to by an estimated 24 per cent of the population, ahead of the BBC and Radio Monte Carlo; in Egypt by 14 per cent, and in Syria by 30 per cent of the population, the second most popular station after Radio Monte Carlo, the spokesman said — The Jerusalem Post.

Israel minister warns against euphoria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's Finance Minister Avraham Shohat tried Monday to dampen expectations of an investment boom in the occupied territories following the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord.

Mr. Shohat said both the Palestinian and Israeli economies would eventually benefit from the agreement but investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be slower than thought.

"I don't want to exaggerate expectations," Mr. Shohat told foreign journalists and diplomats at a briefing.

"I think there is a certain euphoria about investing money in the territories. I think people overestimate the possibility of doing it very very soon."

"I want that this vision will come to reality but I think that it will take more time than we think," Mr. Shohat said.

He noted the poor infrastructure and lack of economic management in the occupied territories, which are to begin emerging from 27 years of Israeli military occupation under the agreement signed with the PLO last month.

He said the occupied territories would have difficulty absorbing more than the \$600 million already pledged by 47 donor nations for 1994, the first year of Palestinian interim self-rule.

He said that money would finance big infrastructure projects and help alleviate chronic Palestinian unemployment.

How the money was allocated and spent would be worked out by a Palestinian-Israeli steering committee to meet in Paris on Nov. 5, he said.

Some economists fear mismanagement and corruption could bedevil the new Palestinian economy. Mr. Shohat said Israel would not "patronise" the Palestinians by telling them where and how to spend their

territories.

Mr. Hulleil said the EC had committed an immediate 20 million European currency unit (\$23.7 million) extended emergency package which would be increased to 30 million ECU (\$35.4 million) before the end of the year.

He said the EC had raised the possibility of increasing the package to 50 million ECU (\$59 million).

Mr. Hulleil said half the package 15 million ECU (\$17.7 million), would go to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Higher Education Council responsible for the running of five main universities and would be disbursed by the beginning of next year.

Another six million ECU (\$7 million) grant would cover current budgets of major hospitals administered by the Dutch

Tokyo woman jogger shot in back with crossbow

TOKYO (R) — A 33-year-old woman was shot in the back with a crossbow and seriously wounded while jogging along a road in the Itabashi residential area of Tokyo. Doctors said the arrow missed her heart by two centimetres. The local ward office said arrows similar to the one that hit the jogger were found in a nearby parking area, and were probably dropped by the assailant fleeing the scene. In January in the same ward, a duck was found with an arrow through its back, and police are investigating a possible connection.

But the Jewish state would help them plan. Mr. Shohat expected multilateral institutions like the World Bank to handle much of the funds although some of the \$600 million would go straight to the PLO to set up a police force.

Mr. Shohat, who is committed to privatising Israel's state-dominated economy, said private business should be the engine of growth in the territories.

He said Israel would provide \$50 million over the next five years as "political insurance" or guarantees to encourage Israeli businessmen to set up joint ventures with Palestinians.

He said the Israeli economy would also benefit from the agreement but he would not give figures.

Israeli officials forecast gross domestic product growth of about four per cent a year over the next five years compared with about 4.5 per cent in 1993.

Red Cross, renovation of U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools in Gaza, and help fund International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assistance to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

He said the EC in a meeting a month ago of its 12 member states indicated it would pledge five million ECU (\$5.9 million) to help set up a Palestinian Emergency Development and Reconstruction (PEDRA), the body to administer and coordinate international donor aid.

The PLO had estimated the cost of setting up PEDRA between \$15 to \$20 million.

The EC is spearheading a European drive to lead the international aid effort to rebuild the occupied territories after a historic PLO-Israeli agreement signed last month for Palestinian self-rule.

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